Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-049
Tuesday
16 March 1993

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-049 16 March 1993

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Israel, Turkey Accused of Creating Water Crisis *[AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I 10 Mar]* 1
Arab League Chief Urges Relieving Iraqi 'Suffering' *[Cairo Radio]* 1

Islamic Affairs

Iran's ICO Envoy, Algabid Discuss Afghan Accord *[IRNA]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Denies Abu-Sharif Statement on Talks *[MENA]* 1
Al-Husayni on Europe's Role in Peace Process *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 11 Mar]* 2
'Abd-al-Shafi on Rejection of Talks Invitation *[AL-FAJR 12 Mar]* 3
PLO Official on Peace Talks, Deportees *[AL-DUSTUR 14 Mar]* 3
Palestinian Rejection of Talks Invitation Welcomed *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 11 Mar]* 5
Poll: Majority Support Invitation Rejection *[AL-FAJR 12 Mar]* 6
Hamas Denies Request To Join PLO Structures *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 11 Mar]* 6
Rejectionists 'Looking for Capital'; Amman Likely *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 12 Mar]* 6
Official Explains U.S., Russian Stance Criticism *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 10 Mar]* 7
Fatah Warns FRC on Assassinations in South Lebanon *[VOL]* 7
Abu-Nidal Group Accused of Planning Assassinations *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 8
PFLP-GC Claims Israeli Soldier's Murder *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 8
Hizballah-Palestine Leader Interviewed *[ETTELA'AT 2 Mar]* 8

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Terrorist Violence Across Country Continues 11
Former Education Minister Shot Dead *[Algiers Radio]* 11
'Terrorists' Killed; 61 Arrested *[Algiers Radio]* 11
One Gendarme, 3 Terrorists Killed *[Algiers Radio]* 11
Groups Condemn Attack on Consultative Council Member *[Algiers Radio]* 11
Higher State Council, Parties To Begin Dialogue *[Algiers Radio]* 11
Talks With Veterans Representatives *[Algiers Radio]* 12
Dialogue With FLN Leadership *[Algiers TV]* 12
Mass Resignation by RCD Councillors in Tizi Ouzou *[Algiers Radio]* 13
Mojahedin-e Khalq on Iran's Efforts To Undermine Algeria *[APS]* 13
Iraqi Trade Minister Arrives on Visit *[INA]* 13

Egypt

PLO's Qaddumi, 'Abbas Arrive for Talks *[MENA]* 13
Foreign Minister, Qaddumi Comment *[Cairo Radio]* 13
Qaddumi Leaves Cairo *[MENA]* 14
Teachers Return From Khartoum, Describe Situation *[MENA]* 14
Official Protest Lodged on Treatment of Teachers *[AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY]* 14
Mubarak, Education Minister Discuss Sudan *[Cairo Radio]* 14
Paper Says Sudanese Regime To Pay for 'Provocations' *[MENA]* 14
'Response in Kind' to Sudan's, Iran's Attacks Urged *[AKHBAR AL-YAWM 13 Mar]* 15

Costs of Iranian Presence to Sudanese People Viewed *[AL-WAFD 13 Mar]* 16
Mubarak, Jordan's King Discuss Issues on Phone *[Cairo Radio]* 16
Summit on Lockerbie Expected With Libya *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 10 Mar]* 16
Editorial Condemns Saddam's 'Cheap Scheming' *[AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I 8 Mar]* 17
U.S. Terrorism Report, Hamas Inclusion Criticized *[AL-AKHBAR 9 Mar]* 17
Possible Reduction in U.S. Aid Viewed *[AL-AKHBAR 9 Mar]* 18
U.S. Policy Toward Third World Called 'Unfair' *[MENA]* 18
Israel Accused of Threatening Peace Process *[MENA]* 19
Bombing Called Attempt To Marginalize Palestinian Issue *[AL-AKHBAR 11 Mar]* 19
Columnist Seeks Incentives To Fight Terrorism *[AL-AHRAM 11 Mar]* 20
Bomb Explodes in Central Cairo; No Casualties *[MENA]* 20
Heavy Security Measures at Cairo Mosques Reported *[IRNA]* 20
Security Cordon Placed Around Alexandria *[AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY]* 20
Explosive Defused in U.S.-Inhabited Building *[AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY]* 21
'Terrorist' Killed, 3 Policemen Injured in Asyut *[AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY]* 21
More on Clashes in Asyut *[MENA]* 21
Two Killed in Security Sweep *[AFP]* 21
Police Seize Explosive Devices *[MENA]* 22

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Seeks To Help End Yugoslav 'Tragedy' *[Tripoli International]* 22
Al-Qadhdhafi, Jallud Meet With Economists *[Tripoli TV]* 22

Sudan

TNA Speaker on Relations with U.S., Abuja, Human Rights *[Omdurman Radio]* 25
Egyptian Lecturers Welcome at al-Nilayn University *[SUNA]* 25
Further on Visit of Iraq's Industry Minister 25
Received by al-Bashir *[INA]* 25
Talks With Khalifah, Foreign Minister *[INA]* 26
Talks End; Memorandum Signed *[Baghdad Radio]* 26

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Border Post Comes Under Iraqi Fire 15 Mar *[MENA]* 27
Oil Minister Views U.S., European Tax Moves *[Cairo International]* 27
Al-Mu'min 'All but Certain' To Become Chief of Staff
[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 12 Mar] 28

Saudi Arabia

Information Minister on 14 Mar Cabinet Session *[SPA]* 28
New Oil Field Discovered in Midyan Region *[SPA]* 29

IRAQ

Bomb Defused Near UN Headquarters in al-Sulaymaniyah *[Voice of the People of Kurdestan]* 30
Warning of 'Consequences' of Infringing on Unity, Soil *[INA]* 30
Tariq 'Aziz Meets New Turkish Envoy in Baghdad *[Baghdad Radio]* 30
Medical Teams Offered To Aid Yemeni Flood Victims *[Baghdad Radio]* 30
BABIL on Recent Moves To Normalize Arab Ties *[INA]* 30
Al-Tikriti Families 'Tighten Grip' on Government *[London AL-HAYAH 13 Mar]* 31
Defense Minister Confers With Yugoslav Army Chief of Staff *[INA]* 31

ISRAEL

Rabin Gives Washington News Conference *[Jerusalem TV]* 33
Rabin Comments on Knifings, Clinton Meeting *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
Commentary Assesses Clinton-Rabin Meeting *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 16 Mar]* 35

Peres: No Closure on Territories Friday 19 Mar *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Peres: No Military Answer to Terrorism *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Knesset Discusses Security; Rabin Criticized *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
'Peace Now' Sends Letter to Rabin *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Security Meeting Decides To Reinforce Army, Police *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Remand of U.S. Hamas Member Extended 18 Days *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 37
Soldier 'Slightly' Wounded in Gaza Attack *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
Settlers Stone Arab Cars, Clash With IDF on West Bank *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
'Defense Source' Labels Hit-Run 'Terrorist Attack' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
Arab Stabs Israeli in Hand, Assailant Still at Large *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 37
IDF Confirms Interrogation, Release of Lebanese Citizens *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37

JORDAN

British Official Meets With Prime Minister *[Amman Radio]* 38
U.S. Possible Pressure in Palestinian Talks *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 14 Mar]* 38
UN Official in Amman Apologizes for 'Arafat Insult *[JORDAN TIMES 13 Mar]* 39
Returnees Report Torture in Kuwait, Gulf *[JORDAN TIMES 13 Mar]* 39
Minister Denies Arrest of Pro-Iran Group *[SHIHAN 13 Mar]* 40
Royal Decree Recognizes Slovak, Czech Republics *[Amman Radio]* 41

LEBANON

Al-Hariri Discusses Peace, Syrian Withdrawal *[Beirut Radio]* 42
Al-Hirawi, al-Asad Said To Reexamine Resistance *[RFL]* 42
Dallul Stresses Need To Retain Syrian Forces *[RFL]* 42
Deportees' Spokesman on Resolution 799, Resistance *[VOM]* 42
Birri Urges Concerted Efforts To Liberate South *[VOM]* 43
Fadlallah Says Israel Behind New York Blast *[Beirut Radio]* 43
Fadlallah Interviewed on Political Climate *[KEYHAN 3 Mar]* 43
Fadlallah Blames U.S. for Troubles in Lebanon *[AL-ANWAR 13 Mar]* 45
Curbs on Hizballah To Precede More Peace Talks *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 13 Mar]* 46
Authorities Said To Plan To 'Disarm' Hizballah *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 10 Mar]* 47
Hizballah Aide on al-Shiyah Incident *[London AL-HAYAH 12 Mar]* 47
Objectives Behind Christopher Visit Viewed *[AL-'AHD 26 Feb]* 49
Nasrallah, Amal Leaders Meet, Discuss Issues *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 50
Lebanese Forces To Hand Over Small Arms *[Beirut Radio]* 50
Resistance Attacks Israeli Position in South *[Beirut Radio]* 50
Army Seizes Weapons; Israel Attacks Areas in South *[Beirut Radio]* 50
Areas in South, Hizballah Positions Shelled *[VOL]* 50
Resistance Reportedly Kills 2 Israeli Soldiers *[Beirut Radio]* 51
Israeli Shelling, Overflights Reported *[RFL]* 51

SYRIA

Rabin's Offer To Withdraw From Golan Cited *[Damascus Radio]* 52
Media Comment on Israeli Policy, Peace Talks 52
Rabin's U.S. Visit Assessed *[Damascus Radio]* 52
No 'Worthwhile' Israeli Offer *[Damascus Radio]* 53
Doubt About Israel's Commitment to Peace *[Damascus Radio]* 54
Press on Prospects for Talks *[Damascus Radio]* 54
Coordination With Lebanon Hailed *[Damascus Radio]* 56
U.S. Urged To Pressure Rabin *[Damascus Radio]* 56
President al-Asad Receives Kurdish Leader Talabani *[Damascus Radio]* 57
Talabani Comments *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 57
Foreign Minister Confers With Libyan Official *[Damascus Radio]* 58

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Hekmatyar Urges Factions To Help Restore Peace *[Islamabad TV]* 59

Rejects Iranian Force Offer *[AFP]* 59

India

Further Developments in Bombay Bombings 60
Parliamentary Debate *[Delhi Radio]* 60
Hunt for 2 Suspects Continues *[Delhi Radio]* 61
Clarifications Sought on U.S. Warning *[Delhi Radio]* 61
Commentary on Foreign Involvement *[Delhi Radio]* 61
Need To Increase Security Awareness *[Delhi Radio]* 62
Bihar Strike Evokes Mixed Response; 375 Arrested *[Delhi Radio]* 62
'Special Security' Arranged *[Delhi Radio]* 62
Two' Hard-Core Militants,' Other Killed in Punjab *[Delhi Radio]* 62
Bill To Acquire Ayodhya Land Introduced in Lok Sabha *[Delhi Radio]* 63
Clinton Comment on 'Religious Fighting' Criticized *[PATRIOT 1 Mar]* 63
Hindi Paper Views U.S. Stand on BJP Nuclear Policy *[NAVBHARAT TIMES 5 Mar]* 63

Iran

Va'ezi Says Better UK Ties Not Possible Yet *[IRNA]* 64
Va'ezi: Croats, Muslims Suffering From UN Sanctions *[IRNA]* 64
Turkish Accusations Over Fundamentalists 'Baseless' *[IRNA]* 64
Delhi Cites Besharati's Remarks on Bombay Bomb Blasts *[Delhi Radio]* 65
'Hint' of Involvement in Bombay Blasts Protested *[IRNA]* 65
MKO Leader Assassination in Rome Reported *[IRNA]* 65
Foreign Ministry Regrets Zambia's 'Hasty' Move *[IRNA]* 65
Paper Condemns Zambia's 'Baseless' Allegations *[IRNA]* 65
Majles Assails European Parliament's 'Blatant Interference' *[Tehran Radio]* 66
DPK Political Bureau Office Shelled 13, 14 Mar *[Voice of Kordestan]* 66
AFP, INA Cited on Resistance's Warning *[Voice of Mojahed]* 66
Opposition Radio on 'Wave' of Protests, Strikes *[Voice of Mojahed]* 66
Afghan Refugees Seek UNHCR Assistance *[IRNA]* 67
U.S. Seen To Show 'Deep Animosity' Toward Islam *[KEYHAN 7 Mar]* 67
Commentary Views U.S. Pressure on Sudan *[Tehran Radio]* 68
No Change Seen in U.S. Korea Policy *[Tehran Radio]* 68
NY Explosion, U.S. 'Domineering Tyrannization' Viewed *[RESALAT 3 Mar]* 69
'Innovative Approach' in Foreign Ties Sought *[KEYHAN 7 Mar]* 70

Nepal

Communists Call Strike Over Dam, Power Cuts *[AFP]* 70
Over 6,000 Demonstrate *[AFP]* 71
Markets, Factories, Schools Close *[AFP]* 71
Officials Send Condolences Over Bombay Bombings *[AFP]* 71
Number of Bhutanese Refugees Set at 100,000 *[AFP]* 71

Pakistan

Hekmatyar, Mojahedin Leaders Leave for Afghanistan *[Islamabad International]* 72
Hekmatyar Condemns Kashmir 'Atrocities' *[Islamabad Radio]* 72
Libyan Official Stops Over, Views Kashmir *[Islamabad Radio]* 72
Sharif Notes Efforts To Resolve Kashmir Issue, NPT *[Islamabad Radio]* 72
Army Chief Returns After PRC Visit *[Islamabad Radio]* 73
Indian Claims Over Bombings Termed Irresponsible *[THE NEWS 14 Mar]* 73
Purpose of Solarz' Private Visit Examined *[THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER 14 Mar]* 73
Cases of Nationals Held in Saudi Arabia Being Probed *[THE PAKISTAN TIMES 14 Mar]* 74

Sri Lanka

LTTE Suffers 'Heavy Casualties' in Trincomalee *[Colombo Radio]* 74
LTTE Said Aware of Waning International Support *[DAILY NEWS 4 Mar]* 75

Inter-Arab Affairs

Israel, Turkey Accused of Creating Water Crisis

NC1303130293 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 10 Mar 93 p 2

[Report by Ashraf al-'Ashri]

[Excerpts] The Arab League has accused Israel, Turkey, and foreign parties of fomenting a struggle for water in the Arab world by pressuring Ethiopia and creating a real water crisis for the Arabs, thus threatening the security of Sudan, Syria, Jordan, and Iraq.

In a memorandum on water distributed among the Arab states, the Arab League denounced a number of Western countries for backing Israel's schemes to impose water-sharing agreements on the Arab states. Israel planned to do this by linking Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories to a response from the Arabs to its designs on the water. The memorandum, prepared by a special committee set up by the League's Ministerial Council in September 1991, sums up a number of papers submitted by member states. It calls for drafting an ambitious Arab plan at the national and pan-Arab levels to be implemented at stages. The plan would define the level of self-sufficiency and search for new water resources so a comprehensive map of water reserves in the Arab homeland could be drawn up. [passage omitted]

The memorandum explicitly accused Israel and Turkey of creating a water crisis in the region, noting that none of the Arab states had any problem before Israel was established. In the meantime, Turkey is exerting great pressure on Syria and Iraq to exhaust their shares in the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. The memorandum referred in this regard to the Southeast Anatolia Projects and Israel's plunder of Arab waters by providing Turkey with the necessary funds to carry out the projects so that Israel can obtain a fixed share that could meet its needs and store the surplus by setting up subsidiary dams in conjunction with the Turkish Government.

The League described Turkey and Israel's schemes as a grave plot against pan-Arab security. The memorandum shed light on other attempts made by Israel in cooperation with some European quarters to influence and persuade Ethiopia to set up a number of dams on the Blue Nile, thus causing a drop in the Nile water level for both Egypt and Sudan. The memorandum notes that approximately 67 percent of Israel's water consumption is obtained illegitimately, by stealing water-rich resources in Arab territories occupied after the 1967 war, including 35 percent from West Bank waters, 22 percent from the Golan, and 10 percent from southern Lebanon. Israel's emphasis on the Golan and south Lebanon ultimately seeks to serve a strategic goal; namely, to share water with the Syrians and the Lebanese under official agreements should it succeed in its negotiations with the Arab countries. Thus, Israel diligently seeks to link security and water arrangements.

Arab League Chief Urges Relieving Iraqi 'Suffering'

NC1403154293 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid met today with a delegation representing the American-Egyptian Chamber of Commerce, led by Alex Shelby. They reviewed the latest developments in the region.

During the meeting, 'Abd-al-Majid underlined the need for continued efforts to push the peace process forward and sustain the American role. He emphasized the need for resolving the Palestinian deportees issue by returning all the deportees.

Touching on the situation in the Gulf region, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid called for relieving the suffering of the Iraqi people so long as they comply with the resolutions of international legitimacy. He stressed that the League is eager to return all Kuwaiti POW's from Iraq.

Islamic Affairs

Iran's ICO Envoy, Algabid Discuss Afghan Accord

LD1403183993 Tehran IRNA in English 1821 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, March 14, IRNA—Iran's permanent envoy to the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) [Islamic Conference Organization—ICO] Sabah Zanganeh held discussions with Secretary General of OIC Hamid Algabid on the Afghan peace accord here today.

Describing the agreement as the herald of launching reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan, Zanganeh welcomed the accord signed among the leaders of various Afghan rival factions in Islamabad last week.

Zanganeh expressed Iran's readiness to cooperate in monitoring the ceasefire in Afghanistan as well as restore peace within the OIC's framework.

Hailing Iran's proposal, Algabid listed the required measures and coordinations needed for the next round of the talks among Afghan leaders.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Denies Abu-Sharif Statement on Talks

NC1503165393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Tunis, 15 Mar (MENA)—The PLO has categorically denied a statement to Cairo's AL-AHRAM newspaper today by Bassam Abu-Sharif, Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, on the PLO's

participation in the ninth round of peace talks, scheduled to be held in Washington on 20 April.

In a statement today carried by the Palestinian news agency WAFA, an official Palestinian source said Abu-Sharif has absolutely no authority to talk or make statements in this respect. The source added that the PLO already announced its stand in an official statement last Friday [12 March].

Abu-Sharif stated to AL-AHRAM that the Palestinian delegation will participate in the next round of peace negotiations and that negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli sides will continue because international and regional circumstances require it.

Al-Husayni on Europe's Role in Peace Process

PM1203125693 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Mar 93 p 4

[Report on interview with Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Advisory Committee to the Palestinian negotiating delegation, by 'Ali al-Salih and Ilyas Nasrallah in London on 10 March]

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni has said that the PLO insists on amending the Madrid peace conference formula, which has proved its failure so far, so as to enable the EC to participate as a party in the peace process alongside the present cosponsors, the United States and Russia. He pointed to the increasing coordination between the PLO and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in the occupied territories in the wake of the deportees issue.

Al-Husayni, head of the National Advisory Committee for the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations, was speaking to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday, the day following his meeting, as head of a PLO delegation, with the British minister of state for foreign affairs. It is the first meeting at this level since the British Government's decision to suspend contacts with the PLO at ministerial level in protest at the latter's position on the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on 2 August 1990. The meeting follows Belgium's decision last week to upgrade the PLO office in Brussels.

Al-Husayni said that "the Madrid formula has so far not succeeded in becoming a suitable mechanism for the peace process. Thus either they [not further identified] make it a formula that can become so or it must be changed."

Asked whether the meeting was an indication of a greater European role in the peace process, Al-Husayni said: "I believe that there is increasing European interest in the peace process. It is unfair that the European role should be limited to support only." He added: "I believe that with the passage of time there will be real European participation in the peace process."

Asked whether he saw the resumption of the dialogue between the PLO and Britain at this level as an attempt to exert pressure for the sake of participation in the next round of negotiations, Al-Husayni said: "Without doubt there are numerous means of pressure, including intimidation and enticement. But there are limits to the pressures which we accept or not. We explained these limits to the British, who expressed understanding of our position and promised to raise matters with the Americans and Israelis to facilitate participation in the negotiations."

Asked whether the British requested them to make further concessions, he said: "Actually we raised the issue as an integral whole and stressed that the issue cannot tolerate concessions."

Asked about his opinion of statements by Hamas in Amman about the agreement with Fatah on increasing cooperation between them in the occupied territories, he said: "I have not read these statements. However, if that has taken place, it serves the general national interest—which we have always called for." He went on to say: "The deportees issue has led to increasing cooperation and coordination between the PLO and Hamas in the occupied territories."

Asked whether U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher linked the PLO with terrorism during his meeting with them when he rejected a request to resume the dialogue with it, Al-Husayni said: "That did not happen at all. I categorically deny it. Christopher did not raise the question of the PLO in such a manner or such terms. And if he had, he would have received a suitable reply." He added: "All he said was that the United States has no intention at present or in the foreseeable future of resuming the dialogue with the PLO."

The Palestinian official pointed out that the message which he handed to Christopher from Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat reviewed the positive and negative aspects of the peace process and the obstacles that faced it in the past—obstacles stemming primarily from the fact that Israel looks on the Palestinian territories not as occupied territories, but as disputed territories. These policies, the policy of repression, and failure to take real measures to build trust with the Palestinian people are all obstacles hampering the peace process.

On the reasons which prevented the convening of a meeting of the foreign ministers of the cordon states in addition to Egypt and the PLO, and the lack of an Arab-Palestinian understanding on the deportees issue, Al-Husayni said: "The Palestinians are the last ones to be asked that question." He added that "some Arab parties are so far unable to define a clear position." Al-Husayni ruled out the Arab parties' participation in the next round of peace negotiations.

Al-Husayni yesterday held a press conference in the PLO office in London in which he expressed his honor to be talking "to you (reporters) from the PLO office in London." He also said: "I hope the British Government will follow up its decision to resume dialogue with the

PLO with other decisions through which to recognize the Palestinian people and their leadership."

Asked by reporters about the timetable for the deportees' return, he said: "The PLO refuses to discuss any timetable until Israel announces its acceptance of Security Council Resolution 799, which stipulates the return of all the deportees. This is because it is unreasonable for us to enter a discussion with Israel over a timetable before it announces its agreement to stop the deportation policy and its acceptance of the deportees' right to return.

Al-Husayni urged the United States to resume the dialogue with the PLO in order to push the peace wheel forward.

'Abd-al-Shafi on Rejection of Talks Invitation

TA1503090693 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 12 Mar 93 pp 1, 11

[Report on an interview with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, by 'Abd-al-Salam Musa in Gaza; date not given]

[Text] Gaza—Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, has said that the Palestinian delegation will not go to the negotiations that will be resumed next month without a solution to the deportee crisis. 'Abd-al-Shafi added that the reason for the Palestinian delegation's rejection of the U.S. invitation to attend the upcoming round of negotiations was the U.S. Administration's refusal to respond to the questions posed by the Palestinian delegation to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher during his recent meeting with the Palestinian delegation. Those questions are known as the six points and include a U.S. statement that deportation is illegal and contravenes the principles of human rights, as well as a declaration by Israel that it is committed to Resolution 799, that it will refrain from using the punishment of deportation, and that it is ready to respect human rights. Israel must also clarify its stance on the negotiations and the terms of reference of the peace process—Resolutions 242 and 338—and stop settlement activity.

'Abd-al-Shafi said: It was agreed that those points would constitute the basis for the resumption of the negotiating process. Since we have received no answer, we will not go to the negotiating table. The invitation was rejected on this basis.

Clarifying the Palestinian position, 'Abd-al-Shafi said: We cannot renounce our principled commitment to UN resolutions because this will affect the peace process.

'Abd-al-Shafi said that perhaps the United States was too quick to issue the invitations to the parties involved in the negotiating process. He also noted that the Palestinian stance rejecting the U.S. invitation to attend the ninth round of bilateral talks was coordinated in advance with the PLO leadership abroad.

About the conditions which the Palestinian delegation is setting for the resumption of the peace process, 'Abd-al-Shafi said: The conditions are that Israel commit itself to implement Security Council Resolution 799, which is the basis I mentioned earlier. Israel must also stop human rights violations in the occupied territories and respect the terms of reference of the peace process: Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

'Abd-al-Shafi repeated the Palestinian stance and said: As far as we are concerned, the most important thing is to obtain an Israeli commitment to refrain from deporting Palestinians from the occupied territories in the future. 'Abd-al-Shafi added that the Palestinian delegation will escalate the campaign in the United States and Europe to explain the Palestinian stance on the talks.

In answer to a question about the Palestinian position in the event that the Arab parties go to the talks on their fixed date, 'Abd-al-Shafi said: We adhere to and are totally convinced of our position. This is a principled position. The Palestinian delegation will continue to struggle for its basic rights of self-determination and the establishment of an independent state.

Regarding the Palestinian stance should Israel agree to repatriate the deportees without making a commitment not to implement the deportation policy in the future, 'Abd-al-Shafi said that the Palestinian condition is an Israeli commitment not to use deportation again in the future. This is a basic condition for our resumption of the talks.

In answer to a question about a sudden Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, 'Abd-al-Shafi said that the Palestinian delegation will not conduct negotiations on the Gaza Strip alone, because the delegation is negotiating about the Palestinian problem in its entirety. 'Abd-al-Shafi added: Should Israel want to give up the Gaza Strip, we will not ask it to remain, but it must notify us in advance so that we can adopt the measures necessary for maintaining law and order.

PLO Official on Peace Talks, Deportees

JN1403121393 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 14 Mar 93 p 4

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee member Taysir Khalid by Nabil 'Amr—place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] ['Amr] While Christopher has refused to receive a memorandum signed by Yasir 'Arafat, affirming that he does not recognize him, and while the U.S. spokesman accused the PLO and its leader of terrorism, some members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations speak of the imminent resumption of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue. Do you believe such a dialogue will be resumed with the PLO, or

will it be confined to the negotiating delegation, especially since the United States and Israel make a distinction between the PLO and the delegation to the peace negotiations?

[Khalid] Both the former U.S. Administration and the present one have affirmed on more than one occasion that no negotiations or dialogue will be held with the PLO. This is despite the fact that the Israeli Knesset has lifted the ban barring official Israeli and nonofficial contacts with the PLO, and despite the fact that many countries, most recently Belgium, have adopted positive steps to improve their relations with the PLO. This U.S. stand cannot be understood. It is a hostile stand and is not in line with the role of the United States as one of the sponsors of the Madrid conference. It is obvious from this stand that the U.S. Administration makes a distinction between the PLO and the delegation and confines its dialogue to this delegation as being a delegation from within [the occupied territories]. This has an important political meaning heralding the nature of the solution the U.S. administration seeks to impose on the Palestinian people. In its essence and details, this solution is in line with the Israeli solution, that is autonomy for the inhabitants of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip without Jerusalem and the resettlement of the other Palestinians in the diaspora.

The matter is more serious than it appears to be. It consists of a policy based on negating the unity of the Palestinian people and their legitimate national rights, and on treating this people as population groups with each group having a solution that conforms to the Israeli solution, which rejects international resolutions having to do with the Palestinian cause. This is the essence of the U.S. stand. With this in mind, the PLO should reply and reasess its stand toward the bases on which the negotiations were initiated and the formula of the Palestinian representation within this framework.

['Amr] Could the PLO participate in the negotiations before the repatriation of the deportees, and could it accept the Israeli subterfuge of announcing a schedule for their return?

[Khalid] The decisions made by the PLO Executive Committee and those also made by the joint meeting between the Palestinian leadership and the Hamas [Islamic Resistance] Movement have clearly specified that the negotiations cannot resume before the implementation of Resolution 799 on the collective return of the deportees and before the obstacles hampering a settlement in the region are eliminated, not to mention the U.S. Administration and Rabin goverment's abidance by international legitimacy, including Resolution 242 which calls for the withdrawal from the occupied territories and for settling the issue of the Palestinian refugees. We hope that all parties will be committed to these common denominators on which a consenseus has been reached, and that all parties decisively reject the Israeli and U.S. fromula which seeks not only to circumvent Resolution 799 but the other resolutions of international legitimacy as well.

In addition to this, we recall the memorandum which the delegation to the negotiations sent to the Palestinian leadership on 12 January. This memorandum stressed the need to provide the basic requisites for reviving the peace process, which has really been stalemated. These requisites are the return of the deportees in implementation of Resolution 799, halting the Israeli violations in the occupied territories, Israel's respect for the Fourth Geneva Convention, halting settlements, changing the Palestinian representation in the peace process in a manner that allows comprehensive and legitimate representation with direct and official PLO participation, and reconsidering the negotiations framework so that they will be based on international legitimacy, including Resolution 242. Such a position should be respected by all parties because it represents national common denominators. We also recall the popular position in the occupied homeland when 84 percent of our people opposed the return to the negotiations before Israel commits itself to international legitimacy and implements Resolution 799. [passage omitted]

['Amr] Can the Arab countries continue the negotiations without the Palestinians? What is the position of the cordon states on the Palestinian stance and its constants? How do you assess the relations between these countries and the PLO?

[Khalid] The Arab countries cannot continue the negotiations away from the Palestinians. There is an objective fact of which everyone should be aware, this is: The solution to the issues of the conflict in the region requires two parties, a Palestinian party and an Israeli party. If the Palestinian party is absent from the process, there will be no possibility of reaching a solution, and the same is the case for the Israeli side. The core of the conflict in the region is the Palestine question. President al-Sadat had tried to reach a solution, but that solution opened the way for new wars. [passage omitted]

As for relations with the cordon states, these are not on their normal level. They are below the required and necessary level of coordination. In its meeting, the Executive Committee discussed this issue and adopted a series of decisions, which we hope will lead to positive results. The PLO and our people have interest in upgrading coordination and joint action with the cordon states and with other Arab countries. It is important to work for this objective in accordance with a clear and uniform policy. [passage omitted]

['Amr] How do you evaluate the relations of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] with Jordan, Syria, and Egypt?

[Khalid] The DFLP relations with the Arab countries in general are based on an essential constant, which is the position of each Arab country on our national cause and our just and national struggle. Some countries have

turned, or almost turned, their back on the Palestine question in response to pressures from the U.S. Administration and in line with its policy in the region. The governments of these countries are making a serious mistake because they are not only working against the interests of the Palestinian people but also against the interests of their peoples and countries. Other countries use their relations with the PLO to put pressure on the organization to force it to be in line with the U.S. policy in the region. Therefore, we always repeat our rejection of these pressures, and we consider them interferences in our internal affairs that we hope will stop.

As for our relations with Jordan and Syria, these are normal, and we hopethey will develop. In this context, we want to stress that the relationship with Jordan—in light of the disengagement decision, the broad political liberties and democracy, and in light of Jordan's announcement that it will not participate in the negotiations with half a delegation—is developing continuously. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Rejection of Talks Invitation Welcomed

PM1203145093 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 11 Mar 93 p 1

['Abd-al-Bari 'Atwan article: "Honorable Palestinian Position"]

[Text] The PLO did well to request members of the Palestinian negotiating delegation in occupied Jerusalem to refuse to receive the U.S. invitation to resume peace negotiations in Washington. This is because by this courageous and carefully studied position it has once again emphasized its ability to effectively influence the course of events, correct the peace process, and safeguard legitimate Palestinian rights.

It was clear that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher wanted to resume the negotiations without resolving the deportees issue, without settling the Jerusalem issue, and without giving any commitments that the people of the occupied territories would be protected against escalating Israeli repression. He expected all the Arab parties, including the Palestinians, to go to the negotiations in accordance with Israeli terms. And it seems that his expectations were right. The biggest proof of this is the participating parties' concealed agreement to accept the U.S. invitation without conditions.

The biggest mistake the United States has made and is making is its belief that the Palestinian party is the weakest party and will eventually agree to go to the negotiations, compelled to do so after the big parties' agreement is guaranteed, exactly as happened before the Madrid conference. But here is the Palestinian side turning the tables and confirming to everyone its ability to make its decisions independently in the most difficult and darkest of conditions.

The U.S.-Israeli game was clear and overt. Sending the invitations at such a speed, and without replying to the Palestinian memorandum and the six points contained in it, was intended to embarrass the Palestinian side and force it to agree to resume the negotiations without the return of the deportees, the resolution of the Jerusalem issue, or clear Israeli pledges that the unjust deportation policy, which has been condemned by all international laws, would be stopped.

The United States wanted to extricate Israel from its present dilemma at the expense of the Arabs and the Palestinians. This is why Warren Christopher exerted all his pressure on the Arab parties, instead of exerting it on the Israeli side. He almost succeeded in that, but the recent Palestinian position has overturned the equation and put the Clinton administration in a dilemma from which it cannot easily extricate itself without changing all the rules of the game from the beginning.

The U.S. bias toward Israel was clear when the new administration accepted the Israeli deal to get round Security Council Resolution 799 concerning the deportees. And also when it used its influence at the Security Council to prevent the imposition of economic sanctions against the Hebrew state. And when it was more Israeli than the Israelis when it refused to resume dialogue with the PLO on the pretext that the latter still has terrorist links.

Washington wants the PLO to turn into a "tool" that will accept all its decisions and provides it with information about terrorism as a price for the dialogue—a request which the PLO has rejected, proceeding from its fixed position to reject subservience and adhere to its independent decisionmaking.

The Palestinians are not wasting a golden opportunity by their refusal to go to the negotiations under the present unjust terms and the U.S. contempt for them and their demands. This is because the negotiations were futile and produced nothing in the eight rounds that lasted 14 months except frustration and disappointment as a result of the Israeli methods of evasion and procrastination.

The PLO's rejection of the U.S. invitation card to the negotiations is an "honorable position" which we had hoped would be a collective Arab position. But some Arabs chose otherwise, refused to coordinate, and decided to go to Washington early. The PLO could lose some friends and brothers as a result of this courageous position, which reflects self-respect and pride rare among the Arabs these days. And it could be exposed to harassments and pressures inside and outside the occupied homeland. But it will certainly earn the respect of its people and their rallying around it—which in itself is the real and honorable achievement before which history bows in respect and appreciation.

Poll: Majority Support Invitation Rejection

TA1503110993 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 12 Mar 93 p 16

[Text] Gaza—An opinion poll conducted in the Gaza Strip by AL-FAJR correspondents on the Palestinian delegation's recent stance rejecting the invitation to attend the ninth round of bilateral talks has shown that the vast majority of respondents support the Palestinian position rejecting the invitation and participation in this round of negotiations before the deportee crisis is resolved. Some of the respondents favored a boycott of the talks and a final withdrawal of the Palestinian delegation from them, whereas a majority favored resuming the negotiations following a resolution of the deportee issue. The poll was conducted by telephone and through interviews with 300 figures in the public sector from various classes and of various ages and political orientation.

Three questions were posed to the participants in this poll, who were chosen at random. The questions were:

1. Do you support the Palestinian delegation's stance rejecting the U.S. invitation to attend the ninth round?

2. Do you support the resumption of negotiations following a resolution of the deportee crisis?

3. Do you support the Palestinian delegation's withdrawal from the talks?

The answers were:
The first question: 290 in favor, 10 opposed.
The second question: 217 in favor, 83 opposed.
The third question: 94 in favor, 206 opposed.

Hamas Denies Request To Join PLO Structures

PM1203122893 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Mar 93 p 2

[Unattributed report: "PLO Does Not Intend To Form Government for Occupied Territories"]

[Text] Amman—Well-informed Palestinian sources expect Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat to arrive in Amman soon to hold talks with King Husayn of Jordan on the latest developments on the Arab and international scenes.

The sources denied that the PLO intends at this stage to form a Palestinian government in the occupied Arab territories, especially after what has been reported about Israel's intention to withdraw from the occupied Gaza Strip.

The sources described these reports as baseless rumors. Meanwhile, Hamas representative Muhammad Nazzal has denied that the movement has asked to join the PLO.

The Jordanian newspaper AL-DUSTUR yesterday quoted a senior Palestinian source as saying that the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas has submitted several requests to join the PLO frameworks and institutions.

Nazzal told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that two meetings were held in the Jordanian capital between a Fatah delegation and a Hamas delegation on 6 and 8 March, during which they discussed the formation of cooperation and coordination committees between the two movements. They also discussed recent developments in the deportees issue.

He emphasized that Hamas' joining PLO institutions had not been discussed and categorically denied that his movement could have submitted such a request to any quarter.

Nazzal stressed that his movement is setting conditions for that, reflecting its fixed position on this issue, such as reexamining the PLO's political program so as to be in line with Palestinian national constants, especially with regard to participation in the peace negotiations, and reexamining the PLO's organizational structure so as to match the changes which the Palestinian scene has been witnessing since the intifadah broke out, in order for the new structure to end the monopoly and domination and for the PLO to become an effective framework for real forces on the Palestinian scene.

He added that his movement believes that the way to achieve that is to conduct a comprehensive national dialogue of all Palestinian forces. He emphasized that Hamas' dialogues with Fatah were confined to discussing bilateral issues between the two movements and that the issue of Hamas' joining PLO institutions does not concern Fatah only, but all the Palestinian forces.

Rejectionists 'Looking for Capital'; Amman Likely

PM1503143793 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Mar 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Rejectionists Looking for Capital; Amman Expected To Witness Heated Debate"]

[Text] Nicosia, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Western diplomatic sources have said that the hard-line and rejectionist forces opposed to the Madrid process are earnestly working to find a safe haven in an Arab capital adjacent to Israel—which presages the possibility of an escalation in the debate in Jordan in the event of a breakthrough in the peace process.

The sources noted that the situation today differs completely from the situation when Egypt and Israel signed the Camp David accords. This is because Syria is a principal partner in the Madrid process, and all the rejectionists can do is express their rejection through statements—if they find it easy to continue to do this, that is.

The sources added: It will be difficult for the rejectionist and hard-line forces to turn Beirut once again into a

capital opposed to peace with Israel. This is because Beirut cannot become a place from which to launch an attempt to destroy a peace supported by Syria and Lebanon.

The sources revealed that the Lebanese authorities received frank U.S. messages in this connection, and that the Lebanese Army is preparing—quietly—to seize Hizballah strongholds once the "cover necessary for an operation of this kind" is secured.

The sources said that, now that Damascus and Beirut have been ruled out, the only option for the rejectionists and hard-liners is to try to turn Amman into a capital for rejection by arranging a meeting between rejectionists and hard-liners on the Jordanian-Palestinian scene.

The sources added: This scene could form a center for meetings between hard-line Jordanian forces opposed to the peace process, Palestinians opposed to the PLO's approach, and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in the occupied territories.

The sources expressed their belief that confronting a field alliance of this kind would require cooperation between Jordanian authorities and the PLO leadership, and that would depend on the Palestinians' share in the solution [as published].

The sources pointed out that the United States had previously raised these concerns with Jordanian authorities, especially as any attempt to attack Western interests or hold hostages would provoke reactions that are bound to awaken traditional sensitivities in Jordan.

Official Explains U.S., Russian Stance Criticism

PM1503143993 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 10 Mar 93 p 5

[Fathi al-Barqawi report: "Al-Najjab: There Is Increasing Anxiety About the U.S. Administration's Support for the Israeli Position on Security Council Resolution 799"]

[Excerpts] Tunis— [Passage omitted] In an exclusive statement to AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI, PLO Executive Committee member Sulayman al-Najjab explained a number of points related to the peace process, including the pro-Israel U.S. position, the "subservient" Russian position, and the Arab position which needs to be developed and strengthened. [passage omitted]

The Palestinian official makes it no secret that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region last month produced nothing new that would eliminate the existing obstacles. On the deportees issue, he says, Christopher was concerned with selling the U.S.-Israeli deal to spare Israel compliance with Security Council Resolution 799. He adds that, during his talks with the Palestinian delegation in Jerusalem, the U.S. secretary of state did not broach the question of tackling the other obstacles in the way of the negotiations, especially Israel's nonrecognition of Resolutions 242 and 338 as the terms of reference and the basis, Israeli attempts to exclude Jerusalem from the interim period arrangements, its noncompliance with the fourth Geneva convention on human rights, and, to sum up, "Israel's refusal to admit that it is occupying Palestinian territory." [passage omitted]

He also says that despite Washington's reaffirmed commitment to the assurances it gave when the Madrid conference was held, there are doubts and anxiety about the new administration's attitude following the position it took on Resolution 799, noting that it threw all its weight behind Israel. He adds that although the United States confirmed that it would be a full partner in the negotiations, continuation of its current attitude would make it a full partner of Israel only, and the United States cannot be a full partner unless it commits Israel, along with the other parties, to adhere to the UN resolutions and work for the implementation of these resolutions. [passage omitted]

Commenting on the recent visit to Moscow by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin), al-Najjab said that it is impossible to detect any sign of an independent Russian position. He said that, as heir to the former Soviet Union, the Russian Federation inherited the role of co-sponsor on the basis of Moscow's historic position of adherence to international legitimacy on the Arab-Israeli conflict, but the new reality compels the Palestinian leadership to call for a restructuring of the formula for the supervision of the peace negotiations and for West European and UN participation in that supervision.

As regards the Arab position on the resumption of the peace negotiations and linking that to the settlement of the deportees issue, al-Najjab valued the Jordanian stance, particularly King Husayn's statement linking Jordanian participation to Palestinian participation. He noted that Syria also emphasized the seriousness of that issue and its effect on the political process. He expressed the view that the Arab parties should collectively adhere to their previous position in the face of the pressures put on each party separately when the pressure should really be on Israel, the cause of the obstacles. [passage omitted]

Fatah Warns FRC on Assassinations in South Lebanon

NC1808065993 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] [The mainstream] Fatah has accused Fatah-the Revolutionary Council [FRC], of carrying out the recent assassinations in southern Lebanon. A statement released by Fatah noted that the FRC is planning other operations to sow panic in the Palestinian refugee camps with the aim of instigating inter- Palestinian fighting. The statement warned that Fatah will not allow this to happen.

Abu-Nidal Group Accused of Planning Assassinations

JN1303071593 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] The Fatah Movement has accused the Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] organization of assassinating its officers in southern Lebanon recently. Munir Muqaddah, member of the Fatah leadership in Lebanon, said he has information that Fatah-the Revolutionary Council led by Abu-Nidal is planning new operations to resume inter-Palestinian fighting.

PFLP-GC Claims Israeli Soldier's Murder

JN1503184893 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Regarding the murder of soldier Yehoshu'a Friedberg, a responsible source at the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] has stated the following:

Embodying the course of armed struggle and the dealing of qualitative blows to the Zionist military establishment, the PFLP-GC's 'Amr Bin-al-'As Forces on 7 March 1993 abducted the immigrant Zionist soldier, Yehoshu'a Friedberg.

In view of the fact that it was not possible to keep him, an execution by shooting was ordered and carried out against him. This was in retaliation for the daily crimes committed against our defenseless Palestinian people and in response to the Zionist enemy's procrastination in returning the mujahidin deportees to their homes.

We in the PFLP-GC warn the Zionist enemy against any retaliatory measures. We assert that the hand of our mujahidin is capable of reaching the heart of the Zionist military establishment, and that our people and mujahidin will not be intimidated by the policy of oppression and repression. At the same time, we assert that the rifles, spears, and bullet-proof vests of Rabin's soldiers will not protect them. Revolution until the liberation of man and land.

Hizballah-Palestine Leader Interviewed

NC1503113593 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 2 Mar 93 p 12

["Exclusive" interview with Ahmad Muhanna, alias Abu-Hasan, founder of Hizballah-Palestine, described as one of the "most outstanding and yet least well-known combatants" on the Palestinian scene; date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [ETTELA'AT] First of all, please explain the motives behind forming Hizballah-Palestine.

[Muhanna] In the name of God, the almighty and merciful.

Before being linked with the Islamic Jihad, Hizballah-Palestine was an independent organization. We carried out operations against the Israelis in Gaza in 1978 and 1979. We and our organization realized that Fatah struggles without relying on Islamic principles and bases and that the Muslim Brotherhood pursues an Islamic theory and objective without relying on jihad operations. Thus, one of the reasons Hizballah-Palestine was formed was the emergence of the Islamic Republic of Iran in which we rightly had no doubts. But some of the parties and organizations had differing views on it. In short, at a time when the occupied territories and the neighboring countries were filled with secular and antireligious parties and groups and the struggle against the Zionist enemy under the banner of religion and belief did not exist, and at a time when there was no group or party struggling against Israel under the banner or in the name of Islam, the conditions were created for us to emerge.

[ETTELA'AT] In what year was Hizballah-Palestine formed?

[Muhanna] In 1974 inside the prisons with an exchange of views with brothers who later on formed the Islamic Jihad Organization. Martyr Misbah al-Suri and !, who were in the same cell for five years, formed Hizballah-Palestine. Currently a number of people from the leadership cadre of Hizballah-Palestine are in Lebanon, Libya, and Algeria.

[ETTELA'AT] We have had a lot of news about Hizballah-Palestine's operations against the Zionist enemies. However, we do not have much information about its leadership. Can you please give us a brief biography of yourself?

[Muhanna] My life is like the lives of all Muslim strugglers. I was brought up in a tribal family. My father was a mystic [sufi], and thank God, my family was blessed with devotion to religious traditions. [passage omitted]

[ETTELA'AT] Where were you at that time?

[Muhanna] In the Gaza Strip, in a small village called al-Qararah. When the Israelis came, the Palestinian and the Egyptian armies that were there fled with their arms. We and our compatriots and friends formed an armed group. This was in the first days after the occupation of Palestine in 1968. My brother-in-law, who is also my cousin, was a Fatah official. He contacted us and we took up the arms that the Egyptian Army had left behind when it fled and started our resistance. In those days Fatah only registered our names and listed the weapons we possessed. We continued our resistance until 1969 when two of our people were martyred simultaneously. After the martyrdom of these two youths, our war team was identified by Israel and we fled. [passage omitted]

I arrived in Jordan on 21 October 1969.

[ETTELA'AT] Did you join Fatah?

[Muhanna] Fatah wanted to send the first team of officers that it trained to Algeria and I was among the

students who had been chosen to receive training. They told me to get ready to go to Algeria, but I refused because I was ill and homesick. After all, it was the first time that I had left the Gaza Strip. I could not tolerate the situation and thought constantly of returning to Gaza. I contacted Abu-Jihad, the commander of my force, and told him that I wanted to return to the occupied territories and I also gave him the names of others who wanted to return. [passage omitted]

Upon our entry into the occupied territories, the Jews—who had a powerful intelligence service—surrounded us with helicopters and ground forces. Strong clashes ensued. I was shot down and arrested. I was 18 and a half at that time. They took us to a war prison named Zu'ban where all the prison officials were military. The prison was controlled by the military intelligence. May God not allow any Muslim to suffer the tortures that we suffered. [passage omitted]

I was released from prison in 1985 after 15 years and four months. One night after my release, when I was praying I saw several guns pointing at me. They said: May God banish you. My brother and I were arrested. We were taken to one of the prisons of the Palestinian groups for 45 days during which they tortured us as much as they could.

In 1986 when Israeli patrols came to Sahat Filastin, a square in the southern part of a mosque in Gaza, we attacked them with firearms, machine guns, bombs, and grenades. We inflicted casualties on them. Following this, Israel admitted that the operation had been carried out by Hizballah forces.

After the operations, we went to Dr. Fathi Shiqaqi and I told him that we had carried out the operations and that some of us might be arrested, but that we were ready for this.

From then on, many boycotted us in Gaza. Many of our friends who were in prison with us before did not even greet us. The Fatah representative contacted me and said that we should all carry out the orders of Fatah and that from now on they would not cooperate with me in any way and would boycott me. I replied that from the very start I had not accepted their methods. [passage omitted]

Anyway, Israel started arrests after our operations. After extensive searches, I was arrested again and taken to many places in Tel Aviv for questioning. [passage omitted] I was imprisoned and tortured for 45 days, but I was used to this. However, something that surprised me greatly was that Fatah and some other groups and individuals had given reports to Israeli intelligence identifying me as the founder of the first cell of armed resistance and listing every detail of my life. [passage omitted] In the end I received a three-year prison sentence. During these three years, our brother Misbah al-Suri escaped from prison.

He and his comrades started an armed struggle which sparked off the intifadah. We were in prison and we inflicted the first blow on the Israelis in Dayr al-Balah with our friends from inside the prison. In short, 45 days after the commencement of the intifadah, we started the Dayr al-Balah operations. We were in contact and corresponded with our groups and people from the prison. After the prison term, Israel deported us to Lebanon. [passage omitted]

[ETTELA'AT] Please speak to us about some of the activities of Hizballah-Palestine.

[Muhanna] After my release from prison, I attempted to form three important sections:

1. The section of armed struggle and resistance inside the occupied territories;

2. The section of struggle against the enemy in Arab countries around Israel;

3. The section of global struggle against Zionist institutions and personalities in all parts of the world.

We once attacked an Israeli bus on the Ramallah route. We also participated in other operations and gave up martyrs. We are now operating in the occupied territories, and God willing, from now on you will be hearing good news. We have a strong organization in various areas, especially in Jordan.

We carried out the Ismailia operation in 1990. At that time I did not have any money. I borrowed $2,000 from a Palestinian shopkeeper to meet the costs. I trained two Palestinians and took them with me to Egypt. In the Ismailia operations 11 Zionists were killed and 17 were wounded. We returned after two months. I heard that another organization had claimed responsibility for the operation. Our operations thwarted 'Arafat's efforts and compromise with Israel. When the Madrid International Conference convened and the topic of terrorism was brought up between Israel's representative Binyamin Netanyahu and Faruq al-Shar', the Israeli representative said: You have the terrorist Ahmad Muhanna. But are we who defend the freedom of our homeland terrorists?

The reason for this was that during the days of the conference, we had carried out a series of operations against the process of compromise.

We have given many martyrs in various places. For example, in Lebanon, Jordan, and so on we have operated under various names. But for four years now we have been struggling under this name.

[ETTELA'AT] The objection against Hizballah-Palestine is that it claims some of the operations that other groups and parties carry out against Israel. How do you respond?

[Muhanna] I had a meeting with an official of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and told him that these operations were carried out by our people and asked him not to claim our operations.

Of course, we have carried out three or four missile attacks on Israel from Jordan which the Israelis never admitted, except once three years ago. We operate separately from Hamas and the Islamic Jihad. We only carry out military operations and attacks on Israeli targets both inside Israel and in Gaza and other areas. Our objective is to carry out operations. We never issue statements and paste them on doors and walls or distribute them after our operations. Israel is unaware of our organization and they never carry out political or propaganda acts against our people. They only use the name of Abu-Hasan and Ahmad Muhanna to threaten us.

What is important now and something that we should concentrate on is mobilization of the people and of youths. As far as the political organization is concerned, we should try to attract people and make them feel that groups like the Islamic Jihad and Hizballah- Palestine are working toward their objectives and aspirations.

This motivation has now made the youths on the West Bank turn to Hizballah-Palestine and some of these youths are now in prison. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Terrorist Violence Across Country Continues

Former Education Minister Shot Dead

LD1603112893 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] Professor Djilali Liabes was assassinated this morning as he was about to leave his home in Kouba. He was hit by three bullets in his head fired by three persons, according to eyewitnesses.

Djilali Liabes was former minister for higher education. He is a university lecture in sociology. Recently, he was appointed to lead the 2015 experts committee [think-tank committee on social issues]. May he rest in peace.

'Terrorists' Killed; 61 Arrested

LD1603000893 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] A communique issued by the national gendarmerie [paramilitary] command says that eight terrorists were killed the day before yesterday [14 March] by a gendarmerie unit and the special forces of the National People's Army following an attack launched against a hideout located south of Ksar El Boukhari [65 miles south of Algiers]. During the attack, several weapons and some ammunition were captured. According to the same source, 61 people were arrested, who were part of a network of support for terrorists in Medea and Ksar El Boukhari.

Another communique released by the gendarmerie command says that three terrorists were killed the day before yesterday [14 March] during an attempt by them to disarm gendarmes who had arrested them in the Cherarba quarter of Algiers.

On the other hand, the Algiers special judicial council yesterday Monday gave a five-year jail sentence to four defendants who made up a network for harboring and supporting terrorists [words indistinct]

One Gendarme, 3 Terrorists Killed

LD1503174393 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] The command of the National Gendarmeries today announced that Warrant Officer Darwish Ahmed was shot dead yesterday in the center of the town of L'Arbaa [some 25 km south of Algiers]. The victim, who was shot in the back with a rifle, was waiting for his bus to go to work.

In addition, the command of the National Gendarmeries announced that three terrorists were killed yesterday in the district of Cherarba, in Algiers, while attempting to disarm some members of the National Gendarmeries.

Groups Condemn Attack on Consultative Council Member

LD1503180093 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] The National Consultative Council will hold an open extraordinary meeting this coming Wednesday. A statement issued by the Council says that the meeting will be open to the national press.

In addition, following the assassination attempt yesterday against Mr. Hafid Sanhadri [name as heard], the National Consultative Council today issued a statement strongly condemning this abominable crime. The statement added that, at this crucial moment, the National Consultative Council expresses its sympathy to Mr. Sanhadri and his family and wishes him a quick recovery. It also urges all loyal patriots and all intellectuals to stand once again against the shedding of Algerian blood.

For its part, the General Union of Algerian Workers also condemned the assassination attempt against Mr. Sanhadri, principal private secretary of the Ministry of Vocational Training and member of the National Consultative Council.

A strong condemnation also came from the Rally for Culture and Democracy, which expressed its full solidarity with Mr. Sanhadri's family and wished the victim a quick recovery.

It is worth mentioning that there was an attempt on Mr. Sanhadri's life yesterday at his home, in the Garidi district of Algiers. He is now in intensive care at Ain El Naadja hospital.

Higher State Council, Parties To Begin Dialogue

LD1203175093 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Excerpts] The dialogue between the Higher State Council [HSC] and the accredited political parties, in addition to about 60 non-political associations, begins tomorrow. Observers believe that the holding of the second round of this dialogue is a clear indication by the collective leadership of its intention to involve the various political forces in thinking about the future of the nation. [passage omitted]

This round will continue until 6 April. Political parties received the agenda for these talks a few days ago. It includes the widening of the National Consultative Council and discussion of popular consultation concerning a referendum on the best ways of managing the transitional period and consultation on the body to succeed the HSC next December. Another point is the amendment of the present constitution. Some informed sources said that the points on the agenda presented to the parties could be increased if there is a consensus on adding other matters.

Talks With Veterans Representatives

LD1403100693 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] The Higher State Council [HSC] yesterday began a dialogue with political parties, organizations, societies, and political personalities. The first meeting took place with a delegation from the national war veterans.

The agenda announced by chairman Ali Kafi dealt with a number of points, namely: expanding the Consultative Council and enlarging its powers; possible formulas for conducting the transitional stage to ensure the continuation of the state and provisional institutions that are run by the presidential institution that currently leads the transitional stage; and amending the Constitution in a way that ensures a better balance of powers and an effective organization of the institutions.

In his opening speech, the HSC chairman Kafi recalled what had been discussed at the meetings of last September. It was said, in part, that the debates remain open between the HSC and the parties, organizations, societies, and personalities, without any restriction, whenever there is a need for them and they are for the purpose of finally getting the country out of the current crisis.

In a statement by the presidency of the republic, it was stated that the basic condition for coming out of the present situation lies in the eradication of terrorism, strengthening state institutions, restoring the esteem of the state, restoring the confidence of the citizens in state institutions, repairing the national economy, and curbing the chronic social crisis.

The statement also said that the solidarity of Algerians and recruiting them in a broad national front for the purpose of getting the country out of the crisis and renewing the national project constitute the only ways to safeguard the country's future.

The statement also noted that the debate of the HSC at this stage deals with specific practical matters aimed at amending the constitutional provisions that ensure the balance between authorities and defining the actual supervision of the executive body and protecting the institutions against dictatorship and party domination. Extending the transitional period would enable the country to eradicate the roots of the crisis and create a comprehensive visualization and provide objective conditions that would realize the progress of the qualitative transformation needed by the country and to which society is aspiring in order to make it possible to return to an elected democratic path that ensures rotation of authority.

In this meeting, the national organization of war veterans submitted a petition containing the following points: study of the real causes that led to the current crisis; broadening the fields of dialogue to embrace the dynamic forces in the country with the exception of those who practice terrorism; concentrating on national constants; encouraging dialogue between and among the parties; holding a national conference for a national accord; broadening the Consultative Council and widening its powers; proposing some institutions that run the transitional period and that define the powers of the executive authority in the interim period; and introducing the necessary reforms to the administration.

Among the first reactions to the HSC debate with the national parties and organizations was a statement by the founding member of the Socialist Forces Front [FFS] in which he said that the attendance of the FFS in the national dialogue is a duty toward Algeria. He explained that the FFS is required to take part in the dialogue as a democratic representative party that can be a center for gathering together all the realistic democrats.

Dialogue With FLN Leadership

LD1503114793 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] Within the framework of meetings with political parties, societies and personalities, the Higher State Council [HSC] under the chairmanship of Ali Kafi this Sunday received a delegation from the National Liberation Front [FLN] political bureau comprising Secretary General Abdelhamid Mehri, Ali Benfleis, and Abdelaziz Belkhadem.

During the discussions, which were characterized by frankness, aspects of the current situation were raised, particularly the security situation and prospects for the transitional period.

Regarding the points contained in the agenda of the meeting, the FLN delegation proposed the following points to be included in the agenda:

One: How to get the country out of the chain of violence.

Two: How to return to constitutional life.

Three: Providing the conditions for a return to the democratic path.

Four: To agree on a national plan to bring the country out of the economic and social crisis.

Five: The interim bodies needed in the application of the agreement between the sides in the dialogue.

The HSC recorded these proposals which fall within its strategy aimed at overcoming the crisis. The two sides agreed to meet again after Ramadan. The FLN said that it fully shares the HSC's aspiration to defend the national constants, republican values, and the principles of the 1 November 1954 revolution.

Mass Resignation by RCD Councillors in Tizi Ouzou

LD1503135693 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] A delegation from the members of the Rally for Culture and Democracy [RCD], who were elected in the people's municipal and provincial councils, were received at the headquarters of the Governorate of Tizi Ouzou Province. They submitted the resignation of 255 members elected in the people's municipal councils and 22 in the people's provincial councils. According to a statement by the governor of Tizi Ouzou Province, which was delivered to APS yesterday evening, 33 out of 44 people elected in the municipal councils have abandoned their duties and competent services in the Governorate are studying the resignation applications. The statement added that all measures have been adopted and all means have been mobilized to ensure the continuation of public utilities and to serve citizens while awaiting the issuance of an organizational text for finding structures and apparatuses stipulated by the law in such a case.

Mojahedin-e Khalq on Iran's Efforts To Undermine Algeria

LD1603114693 Algiers APS in Arabic 0930 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] London, 16 Mar (APS)—In a special interview accorded to APS the day before yesterday, Saturday [as received], Dr Zohdi, the Mojahedin-e Khalq organization's secretary for international relations, said that the international situation in Iran is hopeless, the economy is in a state of decline, the struggle between the mullahs has reached its limit, and the wealthy are crushing the poor. Dr Zohdi who represents the most important Iranian opposition movement sees that "the only recourse to cover the internal failure" that remains for the mullahs in Tehran is to maneuver and spread the spirit of chaos through exporting the Khomeyni revolution. He added that they have spared no effort to "upset the stability of the Arab countries, in particular Algeria, more than Egypt or Tunisia," adding that the mullahs have intensified their hostile statements against Algeria in recent months.

In conclusion, Dr Zohdi pointed out that the mullahs have clearly indicated that they will provide all possible assistance to the Algerian fundamentalists in their struggle to overthrow the Algerian Government.

Iraqi Trade Minister Arrives on Visit

JN1503185293 Baghdad INA in English 1730 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Algiers, Mar. 15, INA—Dr Muhammad Mahdi Salih, minister of trade, arrived here last night on an official several days visit to Algeria.

The Iraqi minister will hold talks with several Algerian officials on promoting aspects of economic cooperation between the two countries.

Dr. Salih has already visited Tunisia and Libya in the course of tour for promoting economic cooperation between Iraq and Arab countries.

Egypt

PLO's Qaddumi, 'Abbas Arrive for Talks

NC1503074993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0725 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 15 Mar (MENA)—Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, and Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, PLO Executive Committee member, arrived in Cairo early today on a visit to Egypt of several days.

The two Palestinian officials will hold talks with Foreign Ministry officials, dealing with Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Cairo soon. The two sides will review Syrian, Jordanian, and Palestinian efforts to coordinate positions on resuming the peace process.

The talks will also touch on the cordon states' meeting, due to be held in Damascus at the end of March.

Foreign Minister, Qaddumi Comment

NC1503163893 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met today with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department; Mahmud 'Abbas, member of the PLO Executive Committee; Sa'id Kamal, Palestinian ambassador to Egypt; and Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Fatah representative in Cairo. They discussed Middle East developments and the current efforts to boost the peace process.

Following the meeting, Musa stated that he will continue his discussions with the Palestinians to find a solution to the deportees problem, expressing hope that a formula satisfactory to all parties will be attained, particularly as there is considerable hope that all the Arab delegations will participate in the peace talks.

Faruq Qaddumi said that the basic issue they discussed was the peace process, the need to remove all obstacles from its way, and the coordination of efforts to resolve the deportees crisis in line with UN Security Council resolutions and international legality. He emphasized that respect for international legality is the route to a peaceful settlement.

He praised Egypt's role in promoting the peace process and its backing for the full restoration of the Palestinian people's rights.

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1525 GMT on 15 March broadcasts a similar report on Qaddumi's remarks,

adding the following: "Qaddumi declared that the United States, in its capacity as the primary sponsor of the peace conference and especially now during President Clinton's term, must seek to remove the obstacle created by the deportees issue in line with UN Security Council resolutions. He asserted that all the Arab countries agree that this issue must be resolved. He pointed out that numerous proposals were made by the Palestinians in this connection and that the U.S. Administration must make efforts to ensure that Arab proposals to revive the peace process are accepted. Asked if the United States has accepted the six points proposed by the Palestinians in connection with the deportees, Qaddumi said the United States informed the Palestinians that it accepts these six points."]

Qaddumi Leaves Cairo

NC1503192993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1920 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 15 Mar (MENA)—A Palestinian delegation led by PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi left Cairo for Tunis this evening. Qaddumi's visit to Cairo lasted two days, during which he held talks with Egyptian officials on the peace process and the Palestinian deportees issue.

Teachers Return From Khartoum, Describe Situation

NC1503155393 Cairo MENA in English 1450 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 15 Mar (MENA)—One hundred Egyptian professors who teach at Cairo University's Khartoum Branch returned home today.

The professors all said that they were surprised when the Sudanese mass media announced on Tuesday [9 March] that the Cairo University branch was to be closed and renamed al-Nilayn University.

The Sudanese Army and police forces, equipped with armored vehicles and machine guns, cordoned off the university and seized all the cars in the university's garage, the professors said.

The returnees said they were prevented from entering the university to retrieve their possessions.

A great number of the school's Sudanese students condemned the decision and voiced concern over the possible failure of the 27,000- student university's new Sudanese administration.

One of the workers in the university's office called for dispatching planes to bring back the Egyptians in Khartoum because they are under threat, especially from Dr. Hasan al-Turabi's group [the National Islamic Front].

Official Protest Lodged on Treatment of Teachers

NC1603104993 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1026 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 16 Mar (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—Egypt has officially protested the mistreatment of the Egyptian university staff and their assistants following the takeover of the Khartoum branch of Cairo University. The Sudanese ambassador in Cairo has been notified of the Egyptian protest over the mistreatment of Egyptians working in Sudan, which is ruining the good relations linking the two fraternal peoples.

In another development, Cairo University President Dr. Ma'mun Salamah has asked Egypt Air to speed up the return of professors, employees, and families from Sudan.

Mubarak, Education Minister Discuss Sudan

NC1503133593 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Excerpts] President Husni Mubarak received Education Minister Dr. Husayn Kamil Baha'-al-Din at the presidential palace this morning. The minister said they discussed the accomplishments of the educational reform program since November, the plan to contain the effects of the earthquake on education, the accommodation of students hurt in the earthquake, and the program of building new schools. [passage omitted]

The education minister said President Mubarak also reviewed discipline in education and resistance to extremist ideas. On the Sudanese authorities' provocative measure of closing the Khartoum branch of Cairo University, the education minister said the Sudanese decision neither serves the Sudanese people nor respects the historic, eternal relations between the two countries. It is a new link in the series of continuing escalation on the part of the Sudanese Government, he said. [passage omitted]

Paper Says Sudanese Regime To Pay for 'Provocations'

NC1603085593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0745 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 16 Mar (MENA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH affirms that Egypt will continue to preserve the eternal brotherly relations with the fraternal Sudanese people, noting that it is those who indulge in provocations, the al-Bashir-al-Turabi regime, who will pay the price in any case.

In its editorial today, the paper writes that the Sudanese regime persists in provoking Egypt, primarily by raising the issue of Hala'ib. But the Egyptian people and leadership have refused to respond to this provocation and

are still determined to tackle the issue through diplomacy and experience, giving due consideration to the nature of the eternal relations with the fraternal Sudanese people.

AL-JUMHURIYAH points out that "the al-Bashir-al-Turabi regime" has tried to escalate the issue of Hala'ib to the maximum. Failing to stir Egypt's reaction to this provocation, the regime adopted a different approach by annexing the Egyptian education mission schools, crowning its provocation by annexing the Khartoum branch of Cairo University. This regime is still mistreating the Egyptians working in these institutions.

The paper affirms in its editorial that Egypt will continue to perform its role and deliver its message under the harshest and most critical conditions. It's only motive will be its insistence on joint action and rejection of all approaches that might create disputes among Arabs. Egypt will sustain its fixed pan-Arab line and take care to fulfill its Arab commitments and shoulder its duties and responsibilities, regardless of whether others do the same.

'Response in Kind' to Sudan's, Iran's Attacks Urged

NC1603091393 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 13 Mar 93 pp 1, 8

[Article by Chief Editor Ibrahim Sa'dah: "Explosives Are More Dangerous Than Narcotics"]

[Excerpts] We had a melancholy, dreary day last Thursday [11 March] when we bade farewell to five heroes who fell victim to the blind terrorism that, in a very real sense, is threatening the safety of peaceful, secure Egypt. The television did well to relay the awesome funeral attended by tens of thousands of citizens who were shaken by the killing of five officers and soldiers who did their duty and sacrificed their lives during raids on the dens of terrorism, crime, and blind, ignorant extremism.

The very real war that the security forces are waging against the terrorists will not end overnight. Reports published by our dailies about the large quantities of weapons, explosives, and ammunition seized in the terrorists hideouts indicate that it will not be an easy battle. They prove that it is an illusion to believe that these criminal groups are insignificant and that they can be easily encircled and eradicated. People who say this want to play down the danger that now threatens every Egyptian. [passage omitted]

Every time the police raid an extremist's one-room shack they are surprised by his, and his family's, very low standard of living. At the same time, they find automatic rifles, grenades, and a large quantity of ammunition, worth thousands of pounds, in that miserable room. Where does an unemployed person with no known source of income get the money to buy such weapons? [passage omitted]

One cannot remain silent about the proliferation of weapons, grenades, and explosives in the hands of people who have sold their consciences and perpetrate assassinations and acts of sabotage. Perhaps we should remember one such individual's confession that he opened fire on a tourist bus in Upper Egypt for 50 pounds. The weapon they gave him to use in the operation was worth thousands!

The issue, then, is not one of individual acts carried out by desperate youths who wish to take revenge on everyone and everything because they have no jobs. The matter deserves more than this simplistic explanation.

Fortunately many officials, notably Interior Minister Major General 'Abd-al-Halim Musa, have started to reveal what the information they receive proves—that there are foreign and domestic financiers who smuggle weapons and recruit the wretches who use them against specific targets. While expressing respect for these officials' frankness, I would like to ask: If we have proof that certain regimes are involved, what have we done to confront them and their blatant interference in our internal affairs? Will we remain silent and limit our reaction to complaints and hints? No, a thousand times no. [passage omitted]

Let us be more frank. Al-Turabi's and al-Bashir's regime in Sudan is intentionally and unjustifiably offending us. It has been proven that this regime receives money from Iran to finance and assist terrorists in Egypt. Will we remain silent? It has been proven that this regime is trying to usurp Egyptian territory. It has refused to reach an agreement over the issue that would preserve our intimate bilateral relationship. It has been said that this regime has sent troops to an area close to Hala'ib in a ludicrous muscle-flexing exercise. Must we remain silent? It has also been proven that this unsuccessful regime is trying to cover up its failure and unpopularity by offending the region's largest and strongest neighbor. We are surprised by the nationalization of the schools and universities we founded in Sudan to serve our second nation there. Must we be tolerant and swallow these repeated provocations and insults?

What is true of the ruling regime in Khartoum is even more true of the regime that rules in Tehran. We have become accustomed to, and desensitized by, the filthy media campaigns that this regime has launched against us since it came to power. The new danger is that Iran's rulers have changed their tactics from simply issuing insults to flagrantly intervening in our internal affairs. They recruit mercenaries who sell their conscience, patriotism, and religion for Iranian dollars. They supply them with weapons to undermine the Egyptian regime, hoping to control Egypt and remove the obstacle barring their ambition to swallow up the entire Gulf region.

I am not asking for a declaration of war against Sudan or Iran. We are not against the two Muslim nations living there. We are against Sudanese and Iranian acts inside our country. There can be no alternative except response in kind. This is a principle rejected only by the weak and submissive. Egypt is neither, nor will it ever be.

They are intervening in our internal affairs. We also have the power to intervene in their affairs. They are buying the consciences of pliable people in our country. We have the capability to buy the same kind of people in their countries. We wouldn't even have to pay money to find enemies of the Sudanese and Iranian regimes because the majority of the people in those nations oppose their rulers and would love Egyptian assistance in overthrowing them.

I know that the Sudanese and Iranian opposition frequently request such Egyptian assistance. We have refused and continue to refuse to extend it because we are a state that respects laws and international norms and refuses to interfere in other countries affairs, be they friends or enemies. Apparently these principles are not upheld by these regimes who have imagined, or deluded themselves into believing, that our commitment to principles is a weakness, that our peacefulness is a surrender, and that the possessions of Egyptian citizens are easy spoils. It is time to disillusion them. [passage omitted]

Costs of Iranian Presence to Sudanese People Viewed

NC1603120693 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 13 Mar 93 p 1

[Editorial: "O Khartoum Junta, Beware of Playing With Fire"]

[Text] Fact: The Egyptian refuses to draw his weapon against his Sudanese brother. Fact: The Sudanese rejects his rulers' orders to open fire on his Egyptian brother. All the sons of the Nile valley, from its north in Egypt to its south in Sudan, believe this.

Noting that it would be shameful for the Egyptian and Sudanese to fight each other, we address a popular warning to the military rulers in Khartoum against their plans and schemes. We tell them fighting does not solve problems. Rather, it sows grudges among nations for years to come.

The ties between the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples must rise above transient differences. It would be catastrophic if the Khartoum rulers exploited these differences to sow sedition, create grudges, and cause bloodbaths.

We also tell the al-Bashir-al-Turabi front that Egypt will not accept any foreign military presence in Sudan and that Egypt, as declared by President Mubarak, will never accept any Iranian military presence in Sudan. This is because this presence represents a threat to Egyptian national security and will not protect the fragile military regime in Khartoum.

When Egypt warns against the Iranian military presence in the region, it does so to reiterate that there will never be concessions on national security. We know Iran's objectives and its covetous goals. The Khartoum junta will be greatly mistaken if it believes the Iranian regime can support it against the Sudanese people's will.

A final word to Khartoum's rulers: Enough destruction of Sudan and its wealth and capabilities. The Iranian presence, if confirmed, will be at the expense only of the Sudanese people.

Mubarak, Jordan's King Discuss Issues on Phone

NC1203212693 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan held a telephone conversation with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this evening. They discussed a number of issues.

Summit on Lockerbie Expected With Libya

PM1203124493 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Mar 93 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Egyptian-Libyan Contacts on Lockerbie and Efforts To Hold Mubarak-Qadhdhafi Summit"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that Cairo and Tripoli will, in the next few days, witness high-level political and diplomatic meetings in continuation of Egyptian and Arab efforts to find a peaceful solution to the crisis between Libya and the West over the Lockerbie incident.

According to political sources in Cairo, the telephone conversation Egyptian President Husni Mubarak had with Libya's Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi just before last weekend was part of the preparations for direct meetings between the two countries.

The contacts, the sources said, are expected to culminate in an Egyptian-Libyan summit meeting on the Egyptian-Libyan border or in Tripoli to be preceded by a visit to the Libyan capital by an Egyptian envoy who will carry a new and important message from Mubarak to al-Qadhdhafi on the results of the latest contacts with the parties to the Lockerbie crisis.

The sources also said that the Egyptian president will take with him a complete file on the Lockerbie crisis when he visits Washington next month in order to obtain U.S. approval of Libya's positive proposals which were made recently and which are considered a main component of its agreement to implement Security Council Resolution 731 calling on Libya to hand over the suspects for trial, and Libya's acceptable terms requesting a

guarantee of a fair trial in a neutral state. Germany is Libya's final choice of such a trial venue.

The sources added that, in the extensive talks to be held in Washington, Egypt will renew the call for the opening of channels of political dialogue between the United States and Libya to ease the tension in U.S.-Libyan relations resulting from this crisis, and it will also seek to eliminate U.S. reservations in particular, and Western reservations in general, about the opening of direct political dialogue channels with Libya and the options proposed by Libya but with insistence on the main point which is Libyan acceptance of the principle that the suspects should stand trial.

Editorial Condemns Saddam's 'Cheap Scheming'

NC1303175493 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 8 Mar 93 p 2

[Editorial: Saddam Has Not Learned the Lesson Yet]

[Text] It appears that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has not yet learned his lesson from the crime he committed or studied the tragedy he has brought on the Iraqi people and on all the Arab peoples. This is indicated by published news reports from Washington, Baghdad, London, and Geneva which talk of frenzied activity on the part of the Iraqi regime to restore its severed Arab and international links.

But let us ponder how Saddam Husayn is trying to restore his severed links.

He is, first of all, trying to sound out the U.S. Administration and its policy by making statements or undertaking certain actions in an attempt to gauge the administration's reactions. An example of this is the Iraqi media's reiterations of the claim that Kuwait is Iraqi and the publication of the official minutes of official meetings between Saddam and his visitors during the Gulf war. He is, secondly, seeking Morocco's mediation and its intensive efforts with the Arab world to effect a reconciliation with Iraq. He is, third, according to these reports, making direct moves towards the United States. Sources are saying that he offered Washington a two point Iraqi proposal a few days ago:

1. Iraq is willing to withdraw from OPEC in return for allowing Iraq to export oil unconditionally and to make huge reductions in the price of Iraqi oil to create imbalances in the economies of the OPEC countries.

2. Baghdad is ready to establish full cooperation with the United States in the sphere of intelligence. This includes handing over all its documents and information, from the 1970s until the present day, about extremist terrorist organizations and fundamentalist groups with which Iraq has been cooperating, placing all these documents at Washington's disposal.

It is evident that in his attempt to restore his severed links, Saddam is, as usual, pursuing the wrong course—the course of scheming against Arab and Islamic interests. We have discovered, by simply reading these reports, that the only links that Saddam really wants to restore are those with the United States and that his desire to restore his Arab links is merely a deception.

He is saying, once again, that Kuwait belongs to Iraq knowing that this claim caused the split in Arab ranks and prompted the majority of the Arab countries to oppose him and his ambitions.

He is seeking to scheme against oil prices in order to shake the economies of the Gulf countries, thus even sacrificing the Iraqi people's interests. With this attempt to deal a blow to oil prices, he is harming all Arab oil and non-oil producing countries as well as the interests of all the Arab peoples.

He is also scheming against all the Muslim fundamentalist groups that supported him in the Gulf war and is willing to hand over all the information he has about them to Washington. In other words, he is biting the hand that fed him and turning his back to yesterday's allies for the sake of his narrow self-interests.

All this proves that Saddam Husayn is still up to his ears in his cheap scheming against all parties in order to preserve his rule and nothing else. They also prove that he has not learned his lesson. Therefore he is not qualified to return to the Arab ranks or even to operate under the U.S. master's wing because the Americans are not so stupid as to rush into losing the Arab world in order to gain "Saddam."

U.S. Terrorism Report, Hamas Inclusion Criticized

NC1303133593 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 9 Mar 93 p 2

[From the "Comment" column by Ahmad Hasan]

[Text] The first of April is called April Fool's Day in the West. Thus, it appears that the 1 April publication date for the U.S. Government's annual report on terrorism in the world is appropriate.

As one State Department official said, this year's report will include Hamas—the Islamic Resistance Movement—on the list of terrorist groups. This raises many questions, particularly in the wake of the "Hamasgate" scandal that rocked the new U.S. Administration when it was forced to admit to contacts with Hamas and then stopped them on the pretext that the movement has turned to terrorism and is opposed to the peace process.

Labelling "Hamas" a terrorist organization raises important questions about Washington's possible intentions to confuse "terrorism" with the national resistance of a people under occupation—a people that has the right to undertake resistance according to the UN Charter.

Regarding its opposition to the peace process, Hamas has, according to Western democracy, the right to support or oppose any policy in accordance with its program and objectives, especially if it exercises its right to oppose peacefully.

This report should, out of respect for our intelligence, include some pages, just a few pages, about Zionist terrorism perpetrated by the Stern Gang, Gush Emunim, and other organizations; the massacres they committed in Dayr Yasin, Kafr Qasim, Sabra, Shatila, Jerusalem, and Hebron; the organized assassinations of Palestinian leaders, the last of whom was Khalil al-Wazir, alias "Abu-Jihad"; and the constant Israeli repression, killings, deportations, and imprisonments that make up their desperate attempt to stop the heroic Palestinian intifadah.

It is ironic that two terrorist leaders, Menachem Begin and Yitzhaq Shamir, have ruled Israel in the past two decades but no one in the world dared to object to their terrorist backgrounds.

If Begin, who led the Stern Gang and had a long criminal history, can be given a Nobel Peace Prize and Rabin, the architect of the theory on breaking the Palestinians' bones, is now at the forefront of those calling for peace, you can kiss the "April report" and what it says about terrorism and terrorists goodbye.

Possible Reduction in U.S. Aid Viewed

NC1303162293 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 9 Mar 93 p 3

["Good Morning" column by Sa'id Sunbul]

[Text] The Middle East crisis is obviously on the new U.S. Administration's list of priorities. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher chose the Middle East for his first foreign tour after taking office.

It is also clear that as far as the United States is concerned, Egypt, with its weight and influence, enjoys particular importance in the Middle East. The evidence is that Christopher chose Cairo as his first stop on his Middle East trip. He wanted to listen to Egypt and know its views on the region's problems before starting his tour, which took him to many Arab countries and to Israel.

In Cairo, the U.S. secretary extended U.S. President Bill Clinton's invitation to President Husni Mubarak to visit Washington. Mubarak will indeed visit the United States on 6 April, and he will be the first Arab leader to visit the United States and meet with its new president. This clearly means that the U.S. Administration appreciates the role played by Egypt under Husni Mubarak.

In yet another indication of the United States' appreciation of Egypt's role, the U.S. State Department has recently announced that aid to Egypt in the new U.S. budget will not be affected despite the tendency to cut down U.S. foreign aid in general.

Egypt receives some $2.3 billion in U.S. aid every year. This is a large figure constituting an important source of our revenues, especially since the aid is given in the form of grants. But despite the favorable State Department position, we ought to bear in mind that the aid, which we have been receiving for many years, may be affected in the future. It might be reduced, or even cut off altogether.

Indeed, there are many factors suggesting such a possibility. The American budget is suffering from an immense deficit, and President Clinton promised to work to reduce this deficit by squeezing government spending on one hand and imposing new taxes on the American people on the other. Although foreign assistance represents only a drop in the bucket of the formidable American spending, it is possible—indeed expected—that many voices will rise in the Congress calling for reducing, or perhaps canceling, foreign aid!

Senator Patrick Leahy, chairman of the subcommittee on Foreign Aid for the U.S. Congress, has recently announced that recipients of U.S. aid should take into consideration the fact that aid is not an acquired right. He added: The aid system was introduced under the shadow of the cold war and the fear of communism. These circumstances no longer exist, and, consequently, it has become necessary for the foreign aid system to be reconsidered from top to bottom.

In a subcommittee meeting last Tuesday [2 March], Leahy said there is a strong possibility that the Congress will cut down on its security assistance to the biggest two recipients, Egypt and Israel!

This is what the influential U.S. senator said. His words must arouse our attention—perhaps our concern. They call for active Egyptian diplomatic moves to convince U.S. decision makers that U.S. aid to Egypt is just as useful to the United States as it is to Egypt. The U.S. decision is not made by the White House alone; the Congress is a partner. We, therefore, need to give the same amount of attention to the Congress as we do to the White House.

U.S. Policy Toward Third World Called 'Unfair'

NC1603090993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0750 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 16 Mar (MENA)—AL-AHRAM writes that North Korea's decision to pull out of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty is a cry of protest by a Third World country against the unfair approach the United States adopts with these countries.

In an editorial today, the paper points out that the United States is intensifying pressure against North Korea to deprive it of the means to defend itself at the same time that it is providing full protection to South

Korea and engaging with it in show-of-strength maneuvers on North Korea's borders.

AL-AHRAM criticizes the U.S. stand on the Israeli nuclear program and other conventional weapons programs. It provides care and protection to Israel and takes allied states under its wings and puts growing pressures on other states that do not share its concepts or maintain cordial relations with its allies, the paper says.

The editorial concludes that the logical approach to guarantee nonproliferation and the elimination of the huge nuclear arsenals is to develop the basis for a just international policy.

Israel Accused of Threatening Peace Process

NC1503075893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2213 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 14 Mar (MENA)—AL-AHRAM expects the peace talks, which are due to resume in Washington on 20 April, to stumble without an Israeli commitment to not deport Palestinians and this way ensure the success of the negotiations.

In a commentary to be published in its Monday [15 March] edition, the paper criticizes Israel's behavior over the deportees' crisis and its usual bargaining with the United States to obtain special aid in return for making such a commitment.

AL-AHRAM says Israel is being unreasonable every time it creates a crisis that takes a long time to solve. The U.S. secretary of state is forced to come to the region to solve the crisis and the issue ends with Israel's consent in return for some benefit from the United States.

The paper concludes that a repeat of this experience makes it a joke. The resumption of the talks, the paper notes, constitutes a rare opportunity for peace; wasting it will be costly. So Israel must rise to the responsibility and not resort to childish complications and extortionist procrastination.

Bombing Called Attempt To Marginalize Palestinian Issue

NC1303165493 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 11 Mar 93 p3

[From the "Good Morning" column by Sa'id Sunbul]

[Text] The bombing of the World Trade Center in New York raises many questions.

The first question is: Who planned this crime? Or more accurately, who helped plan it, because it is difficult for a single person to plan or prepare such a crime? Who carried it out? Or, who helped carry it out? This was no ordinary crime, it was a complicated attack whose planning and implementation required the participation of many parties.

More importantly, what was the purpose of bombing one of tallest buildings in the world, one of the most important buildings in the United States, a place where hundreds of big corporations have offices? Such a bombing was certain to arouse the American people's wrath and anger against the perpetrators. This did in fact happen because the bombing killed five people, injured more than 1,000 others, and inflicted huge losses on the companies that operate from the building and have been forced to close their offices and stop their activities. These companies' losses are estimated at around $1 billion.

Suspicions now center on a young Arab Muslim, Muhammad Salamah, who is of Palestinian origin and carries a Jordanian passport. The charges against Salamah have not yet been proven, which means that he might be innocent or just an accomplice.

Suppose Salamah was involved in this crime, what was his objective?

The charges against the young Muslim Palestinian have incited U.S. ire against the Palestinians and Muslims. The U.S. media has also helped feed this revulsion. Was the crime's aim to incite the feelings of wrath against the Palestinians and Muslims? If we suppose that this was the aim, then how can a young Muslim Palestinian get involved in an action that harms the Palestinians and Muslims?

These are perplexing and amazing questions with no clear answers.

The only beneficiary from this crime so far is Israel, who has come under international pressures in the past few weeks because of the issue of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] deportees, who Israel describes as terrorists. If the investigations show that a Palestinian Muslim took part in bombing the World Trade Center, then this will serve Israel and justify its repressive measures against Hamas.

More importantly, we have always said and reiterated that terrorism in the Middle East is the product of the Israeli stand that rejects a solution to the Palestinian issue and that a solution will make the waves of terrorism recede. But we have started to hear people saying that there are no links between terrorism and a solution to the Palestinian issue, that terrorism is a stand propagated by some intransigent Islamic organizations and some countries that support them, such as Iran, and that all efforts must be focused at present on containing and fighting terrorism.

This means marginalizing the Palestinian issue and reducing interest in it.

Did the World Trade Center bombing aim to help entrench this situation?

I believe that this was probably the target of the crime.

Columnist Seeks Incentives To Fight Terrorism

NC1403095493 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 11 Mar 93 p 8

[From the "Close Up" column by Salamah Ahmad Salamah: "Rather Than Curses...."]

[Text] It is easy to curse the terrorists who shake the pillars of security or to address eloquent and touching appeals to the people to confront the criminal elements that jeopardize our economy and tourism.

These appeals are not much different than the "no to terrorism" banners some officials have hung on street corners. People read these banners and go indifferently about their business, crushed under the burdensome needs of life, with their ears ringing about the exciting and scary tales and rumors. They later drown in the hallucination of the televised Ramadan riddles.

Yes, we call on the people to stand up to terrorism and on all political parties and groups to close ranks and refrain from throwing the burden on the security forces and police. However, we hardly give the people a single incentive to take part in the required confrontation; we hardly encourage them to partake of the responsibility or participate in making the decisions that involve other basic aspects of their lives.

As the stifling economic pressures bear down on the low-income classes that represent the majority, and while unemployment spreads, we see a state of stillness and indifference. This attitude prevails as a result of clear signs of government extravagance; stories of corruption; the lack of a desire to change; and an insistence on keeping the same faces that ruled, dominated, and crawled their way up the political hierarchy for years to settle undisturbed in their seats for years on end. Criticism goes with the wind. People's Assembly inquiries turn into tender reproach, certain laws are passed with jet speed while others proceed as slow as a turtle, traces of under-the-table deals loom on the horizon, and schemes are hatched to eliminate opposition parties. This is all happening as we suffer from a weak party life that has retreated to the stages of political idiocy.

Those who think the extremist and terrorist phenomenon can be traced back to intellectual and religious causes alone fail to see that most of those captured in connection with terrorist incidents are misled young people in their twenties who have never read a book. The source of their information does not go beyond the cassette tapes sold on street corners, at mosque doors, and in dark alleys overflown with sewage water, garbage, and unemployed people.

The blowing up of the cafe on al-Tahrir square has created a state of panic, shaking many out of their slumber. This might help the security forces adopt more fool-proof approaches to arrest the flow of weapons and explosives. However, if we want to involve the people in facing up to terrorism, we need a strong tremor that stirs energies, renews hopes of change for the sake of progress, and revives political awareness of the usefulness of involving the people in determining their own fate, instead of futile, high-sounding slogans.

Bomb Explodes in Central Cairo; No Casualties

NC1603120393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1155 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 16 Mar (MENA)—An explosion took place today in a tourist bus parked in front of the Egyptian museum on al-Tahrir Square in Cairo. It shattered the glass of five tourist buses.

No casualties have occurred. A security cordon has been placed around the buses and the region to secure the area and search the buses for any other explosive charges.

The explosion caused a 25-centimeter hole under the tourist bus which belongs to UTS Travel Company.

The explosion destroyed the luggage compartment in the bus. The security organs evacuated the buses parked in front of the museum at once and the buses were not damaged.

All the buses have been searched to ensure that they are free of explosive charges.

Heavy Security Measures at Cairo Mosques Reported

LD1403061893 Tehran IRNA in English 0536 GMT 14 Mar 93

["Friday Prayers in Egypt Under Barrel of Gun"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Athens, March 14, IRNA—Friday prayers were held in Egyptian mosques under unprecedented security measures with heavily-armed soldiers guarding the entrances and exits of mosques. Photos dispatched by news agencies from Cairo showed soldiers keeping a nervous watch while the Muslims prayed.

According to Cairo opposition daily AL-WAFD Saturday [13 March], security forces carried out intensive searches on prayer-goers in and around the roads leading to mosques.

Security forces shot and killed over 20 suspected members of Islamic groups Wednesday in several Egyptian cities in an upsurge of clashes between the regime of Husni Mubarak and Islamic groups. Hundreds of people have been rounded up without any charges or trial.

Security Cordon Placed Around Alexandria

NC1303153993 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1432 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Mar (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—Alexandria detectives have arrested a large number of extremists and other suspects during a 5-day

campaign. Subsequent investigations have revealed that some of the defendants belong to al-Jihad Organization, members of which were arrested last week. It has come to light that the organization's members had planned to attack vital installations and assassinate certain public figures. The security forces have imposed a security cordon around Alexandria and intensified their raids on makeshift residential slums. Strict security has been imposed on important installations and senior security officers are carrying out inspections on troops doing sentry duty in those places.

Explosive Defused in U.S.-Inhabited Building

NC1603111693 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1028 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 16 Mar (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—The security service has discovered an explosive charge inside the basement of a building inhabited by foreign experts in al-Ma'adi. Explosive experts managed to defuse the charge, which contained 12 bullets and a quantity of gunpowder.

Al-Ma'adi Chief Prosecutor Salah al-Jibali was notified by the gatekeeper of a building on Dijlah street that a U.S. expert, who lives in the building, asked the gatekeeper to remove a plastic bag from the basement. The gatekeeper said that he discovered bullets and gunpowder in the bag.

Public Prosecutor Ayman Hajjaj and criminal laboratory experts visited the scene and defused the charge. The prosecution started investigations.

'Terrorist' Killed, 3 Policemen Injured in Asyut

NC1303153193 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1428 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Mar (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—Clashes between the security forces and al-Jihad members continued in poor residential quarters in Abu Tij township in Asyut until the early hours of the morning today. Three policemen, including a captain, were injured and one terrorist was killed in the fighting. The security forces under the command of Major General 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Hilali are trying to identify the dead terrorist.

The latest engagement was carried out in the context of the continuous combing operations against terrorist hotbeds in various areas. A unit of Asyut's security forces left for the poor residential area in Abu Tij after receiving information that several terrorists had taken refuge there. The unit was confronted by a hail of bullets coming from an apartment. Captain Muhammad Ahmad 'Abd-al-Jalil was hit in the chest and taken to Asyut University Hospital. Two other policemen also sustained injuries and one terrorist was killed.

[Paris AFP in English at 1327 GMT on 13 March reports the clash in Abu Tij, adding the following: "In the city of Asyut, a 16-year-old militant was arrested late Friday [12 March] after he threw a bomb at a pharmacy in Dayrut, but there were no casualties, police added.

["In the violence that has hit Egypt since last March, 107 people have died, including 45 militants, 25 Coptic Christians and 22 policemen."]

More on Clashes in Asyut

NC1303194193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1850 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] Asyut, 13 Mar (MENA)—Terrorist Ahmad Sayyid Farghali, a worker at the Abu Tij cotton ginning factory, died in an exchange of fire with police forces who had laid an ambush to arrest extremists in a hideout in Abu Tij, Asyut Governorate. Captain Muhammad 'Abdallah 'Abd-al-'Al [as received] was hit in the chest during the shootout and taken to Asyut Central Hospital for treatment.

The security forces arrested two extremists, 'Abd-al-Rahim Husayn 'Ali and 'Imad Mahmud 'Abd-al-Hafiz, in possession of an automatic rifle and 30 bullets. Hilmi 'Abd-al-Raziq, Abu Tij's public prosecutor, headed the investigation into the incident under the supervision of Counselor 'Izzat Mas'ad, public prosecutor for southern Asyut.

In Dayrut today, security agencies arrested a 16-year-old boy minutes after he threw an explosive device into Sharif Pharmacy. All the medicine was burned but no one was hurt in the incident and the boy was referred to the prosecution office for questioning.

Security authorities also arrested extremist Mukhaymir Tughyan 'Abd-al-Rahim, member of al-Jihad Organization, in Masarah town, Markaz Dayrut. He is suspected of involvement in the attack on the pharmacy. The security authorities discovered on him a homemade explosive charge, which the criminal laboratory is currently examining to determine whether it is of the same type that exploded in the pharmacy.

Asyut prosecution chief Safwat Mkadi began investigation under the supervision of Counselor Mahrus Muhammad, public prosecutor of northern Asyut.

Two Killed in Security Sweep

NC1503144693 Paris AFP in English 1415 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Asyut, Egypt, March 15 (AFP) - A Muslim militant and a policeman were killed Monday [15 March] as security forces aboard helicopters, armored vehicles and motor boats hunted fundamentalists in southern Egypt, police said.

The two died during a vast operation to find armed militants hiding for weeks in sugarcane fields and orchards along the Nile River in the al-Badari region of Asyut, more than 400 kilometers (250 miles) south of Cairo, police said.

Motorboats were used to transport troops to islands where many suspects were hiding. The militants had escaped police raids in the nearby towns of Dayrut, Abu Tij, Suhaj and Tima.

Security forces last Tuesday and Wednesday also raided Cairo neighborhoods and a mosque in the southern town of Aswan, sparking gunbattles which killed 22 people.

Police in the northern port city of Alexandria said Monday that 424 Muslim fundamentalists had been detained in connection with attacks on tourists, which have claimed three lives since October.

They also said 64 people originally from southern Egypt, a centre of fundamentalism, had been rounded up in Alexandria and returned to their towns in the south.

Police Seize Explosive Devices

NC1503211093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1843 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Asyut, 15 Mar (MENA)—An undercover police agent at the Abu Tij Railway Station in Upper Egypt's Asyut Governorate has seized four explosive devices hidden in a cardboard box. The extremists planned to use the explosive devices against the police and public installations.

The undercover agent noticed a passenger who was carrying a box when the train stopped at the railway station. The passenger handed the box through a train window to another person standing on the station platform. This person was about 16 and wearing a white robe. The undercover agent ran after the robed person, who left the box on the platform and fled. The box contained four explosive devices containing TNT and were ready for use.

The public prosecutor opened an investigation and ordered that the police apprehend the two people.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Seeks To Help End Yugoslav 'Tragedy'

LD1603083193 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0300 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution [Mu'ammar al-Qadhdahfi] yesterday summoned the ambassador of Yugoslavia, which consists of Serbia and Montenegro, at the Great Jamahiriyah, and entrusted him with a message to the Presidency in Belgrade. In this message he affirmed that international consciousness can no longer tolerate this repeated tragic and unbearable scene of killing the children, elderly, and women, and the expulsion of the civilians in bad weather conditions where they decide to cross distances through the snow on foot.

The leader demanded the need to put an end to this (?unique) tragedy in human history. He pointed out in his message that we, in the Great Jamahiriyah, are friends of the Serbs, that the Muslims are our brothers in Islam, and that the stance of the Great Jamahiriyah obtains the approval to support them (?and is not motivated) by other motives.

(?Thus) he said that the Great Jamahiriyah will perform its international role to solve this problem and stop the unbearable tragedy. The leader demanded from the two sides to inform the Great Jamahiriyah of the motives which have caused, and are still continuing this tragedy.

Al-Qadhdhafi, Jallud Meet With Economists

LD1503181093 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2110 GMT 14 Mar 93

["Second part" of report on sixth day of meetings between Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and Libyan economists and oil experts, also attended by Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud, on 14 March; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Al-Qadhdhafi] What do you have to say, 'Abd-al-Salam?

[Jallud] I thank the leader for allowing me to participate in this meeting as I will benefit from it and also because I have something to say about the subject. Of course, the big question is the future of Libya and the future of life in Libya. First, I would like to talk about the issue of oil.

Leader, knowing that you are a revolutionary, and as a revolutionary, I have to say that there is a feeling among citizens and in the people's congresses that they have not had a say in this matter. The second point is that there is a feeling that there has been mismanagement in the use of public funds. There is such a feeling; one cannot deny it.

However, even from a theoretical angle, leader, the idea of distributing oil wealth goes against patriotism [wataniyah]; that is, it is essentially against patriotism, even if we suppose that the funds exist. We know, however, that the funds do not exist. It is assumed that the citizen should give and surrender a part of his effort to the homeland, for solidarity and the construction of the homeland. If the citizen should plunder the wealth, however, that would be a serious matter. It goes against the patriotism, which is regarded as the minimum.

In fact, this would be unreasonable. But there are ways. In all the countries where changes have taken place, change has come as a result of social and economic differences. The revolution, or the reform system, directed its efforts toward raising the standard of living. The popular masses who were robbed feel first of all that they did not receive their share of the wealth in the [word indistinct] eras when the focus was on spatial [makaniyah], geographic, and social development.

It would be possible to reach the objective sought by the leader, which is a revolutionary objective, by moving

toward private investments to enable those who have not received their share of the wealth to get it by means of production, linking it to effort, and by raising standards. For example, we could provide facilities for building farms by providing half of the price [thaman]. We could turn toward housing, which has social and economic importance. We could provide houses for some groups, as we did at the beginning of revolution. For example, shares in companies. [sentence as heard]

There are ways and means to bolster the economy and, at the same time, to enable the masses, who feel that they have not received their share of the wealth, to raise their standard of living. Thus, we can achieve harmony by using oil in developing the country and closing the gap that divides the lucky ones from those who have not been able to receive their shares.

As for the distribution of funds directly, this is in fact impossible. It goes against patriotism, is destructive, and exceeds selfishness. It even reaches plunder. It would be like conquest, as though the Italian or [words indistinct] had come to exhaust the wealth and then leave, not even thinking about future generations.

In fact, as far as the planning of Libya's future is concerned, we must have as a departure point....[pauses] Planning, O leader, cannot be [word indistinct]. (?This is) necessary. We are not planning for Libyans for 2000 years to come; in fact, planning must be confined to a period of time. [passage omitted]

As for the international framework, the world has become open and I would like to stress that the only way to be able to integrate Libya's resources with Chad or Africa is through Arab unity. In fact, O leader, I will say that one cannot fear for the person who is aware and educated. Thus I call for the idea to have oil used for the education of Libyans, planned education. As an example, [word indistinct], O leader, an educated person will not accept the waste of water. [passage omitted]

We have discovered Libya's potential with the technology that is available to us now, but we cannot do so for 20 or 30 years to come. We have defined the economic potential available now with our present knowledge of today's technology.

In reality we cannot plan for Libyans for an unlimited period. This is not possible. Planning is limited to a period of time. I believe that Libya's economic possibilities were very much in accord with the number of inhabitants. Furthermore, the presence of oil has created a problem in that the economic possibilities are no longer in harmony with our human resources. Oil, O leader, has in fact played a role which is depriving us of necessity, and necessity is the mother of invention. Oil has prevented us from discovering Libya's potentials. The second point is that oil prevented us from innovating. It is need that makes one invent and innovate. [passage omitted]

I call for oil to be used only for technological purposes. The revolution is now a quarter of a century old, and Libya was independent before [words indistinct]. We are in fact speaking about stations and 15 years [words indistinct]. We are now importing even very simple spare parts. If the Libyans are really thinking about their future, oil should be used for real technological development, the manufacturing of tools, and engineering industries.

In truth oil should be used for turning to technology; not these reports, O leader. These reports are a disease [words indistinct], maps, statements, nicely arranged words. What is needed is a real serious turn to technology. O leader, Europe as far as we are concerned, is not interested in desalination, not interested in desert plants, because it does not have this problem. We must exert effort and set up research institutions to study desert plants and desalination, and cooperate with our universities. They do not have this problem just like they do not have the problem of the sun. [passage omitted]

Planning has become very weak for philosophical reasons, because the people can plan but in reality the people are selfish. They consider people's authority and oil as a milch cow. They are only interested in a society of rights [not duties]. I believe, O leader, that we must plan. Planning has become weak. To turn to technology we must plan education and plan manpower. If we plan education and manpower and become a technological society, and oil revenues are employed for real serious scientific research and we create an educated people, an aware people, we will have secured the future of Libya. [passage omitted]

The first thing we must plan, O leader, is the administration. We regrettably [word indistinct] government administration, that is bureaucracy to replace it with a revolutionary or popular administration.

Administration allows you to plan, follow up and assess. The collapse of planning in education and manpower, O leader, means the collapse of society. I alert you to the issue of planning education and planning manpower. Now, O leader, we plan with the current technology we have. Oil made us not exploit the sea, not exploit agriculture; it destroyed agriculture. We did not exploit tourism. Frankly I had for the first time the opportunity of touring Shahat. Shahat itself is indeed a lasting wealth. There are in Libya, O leader, antiquities that do not exist in Rome or Athens. [passage omitted]

Libya's geographical position is excellent. Some European companies said that Libya is situated in the middle of North Africa. There are people who say that the income from a road stretching from Libya to Niger would be more than that of the Suez Canal, because it links the center of Africa with the ports of the Mediterranean, and there are companies which proposed, O leader, to build it because of the activity it would generate.

The fact is that a problem exists, but it is due to bad planning. As to the capabilities, they are at present disproportionate with the size of the population. They perhaps exceed the size of the population. The most daring decision that can be taken, O leader, by the revolution—of course we always discuss it and you instigate for it, but the people are selfish—is that oil revenues be used for the technological transformation and the creation of alternative sources to oil. [passage omitted]

Planning starts from three factors: technology, the pan-Arab dimension and the international dimension. As far as we are concerned, the brother experts talk about 15 years plans for industry. In short when we muster technology we will without doubt give priority, of course, to whatever interests Libya such as desalination, desert plants, plants that can grow in semi-saline soil.

It is possible, O leader, that there is another issue after desalination, that of semi-desalination, that is water treatment. This could be cheaper. [passage omitted]

I believe, O leader, with regard to solar energy, desert plants and desalination, we must now concentrate on ... [pauses] ... I have a proposal: We introduce harsh measures concerning the use of water in the Jufarah plane, Fizzan, and this region [pointing to map]. We exploit waterfalls in the Jabal al-Akhdar, we exploit the man-made river—of course it was calculated to last 50 years, but it [words indistinct]. In these 50 years we concentrate on the introduction and mastering of the desalination technology and solar technology. This way we will indeed have planned for the coming generations. From what I have heard in this seminar, one believes that we are planning for the indefinite. Planning is in fact confined to a time span, certain circumstances and certain changing technology. This is what I wanted to say, O leader. Thank you.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Thank you. We benefited from this submission, and I do not believe that there is anyone who disagrees with what 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud has said in essence. Some observations ...

[Jallud] And very practical, O leader. Practical.

[Al-Qadhdhafi, laughing] Of course, not only theoretical.

I fear what happened to the Arab Gulf states: they have oil money and they are spending it. What has Libya done? Once I stood up at the General People's Congress when I saw that after a quarter of century, all we had done was to establish social welfare and other things that fall under the heading of infrastructure. But there is not a thing that has solved the problem. We did not create something strategic with the exception of the great man-made river. I am not even satisfied with educational achievements, and I am not satisfied with our achievements in agriculture. We have not been able to establish agriculture that suits the needs of a country facing a problem. The state of agriculture in our country is as it used to be. Everyone does what he feels like. We have not been able even to control the number of wells in a certain region. What I mean is that matters in Libya are going on as in the Gulf: oil being consumed in the form of radios, cassettes, games, canned food, etc. Things that harm our sons' health, morals, and disposition. People complain that communes are to shut down some things that are alien to our nature and morals. There are people who are angry with the communes for closing down places selling foreign cassettes. What are we going to understand from foreign cassettes? This is blind aping. There are American dancing music cassettes, cassettes of American singers, for instance. There are Americans who may like this, but what can we understand from this? Even if he dances in front of us for a million years, we will think he is mad, we will not understand. See how we spend oil revenue on such things! [passage omitted]

After the revolution, we were exhausted by arming ourselves. Half the income went on arms after the revolution, because we were and remain a target. Although we have not used those arms, they made Libya a country to be reckoned with. For America to stage a 12-minute raid on us, it spent years in preparations. [passage omitted]

To avoid the squandering of oil revenues, I said a great part of the oil revenue should be distributed to people directly, because the development of any state means the raising of the standards of its citizens. In economics, the measuring of the standard of living, of income, is expressed in terms of per capita income, in addition, of course, to the state's national income. But in the end, everything is expressed in per capita income. I turn directly to raising the standard of living of the Libyan family by giving it oil revenue directly and then it can improve its own lot. [passage omitted]

From the start I said there are conditions for this: you take your share of oil revenue directly, and then you must draw up a policy how to spend this income. We will not allow you to take this oil income and go and spend it on buying games, fireworks, or canned food from abroad. We will force the Libyan family to make something with this income directly, especially since Abd al-Salam [Jallud] spoke about the weakness of administration, of planning. This is a problem from which we suffer and cannot solve. We are backward countries. [passage omitted]

I mean we do not how to manage funds. I believe that even in Libya with this backwardness—and Jallud spoke of weak administration and planning—this means we have no hope that we can spend the wealth in a rational manner. You know there are different types of investment: private investment, collective investment, national investment. That is, individuals invest their income. [passage omitted: Jallud, al-Qadhdhafi comment on importance of education; al-Qadhdhafi cites importance of long-term planing; al-Qadhdhafi on importance of water conservation]

[Jallud] We have indeed been late in allocating part of our funds for non-political investments [words indistinct], on an economic basis. We have been very late in earmarking part of our funds for investment in the international market. This will be one of the very important sources in finding a significant alternative to oil. We have been very late. The only investment we made was in Fiat, which was the best investment last year. We see that the capital of the investment company without the support of [word indistinct] is nothing in fact, some 100 million [currency not specified]. We began recently when we bought by chance a bankrupt company, Tamoil, which we began investing in two years ago. Actually, we have been very late in this field and we must compensate for this. The question that we must answer is: Will we take the minimum from a barrel of oil, or invest it in industry, agriculture, and education in Libya, or investment abroad? These are radical issues, which I do not believe can be reconciled with...

[Al-Qadhdhafi, interrupting] The whole thing is linked to the issue of water, Abd al-Salam.

[Jallud] Concerning water, I have a proposal: I propose that the first thing we do is to establish a strict policy in controlling existing water. That is one proposal.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] That will not solve the problem.

[Jallud] One moment. Second, we exploit the desert's subterranean water in the next 50-100 years for drinking first of all and then for agriculture. In the meantime, we concentrate on investment to master desalination technology using solar and nuclear energy, and at the same time concentrate on treatment of saline water and establish a research center. O leader, I am of the opinion that we set up a real research center headed by serious and sincere people, and spend money with universities in Europe and America on desalination. [passage omitted]

Sudan

TNA Speaker on Relations with U.S., Abuja, Human Rights

EA1503204393 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, speaker of the Transitional National Assembly [TNA], has stressed that Sudanese-American relations are about to develop in the bilateral interest. He said that in this context a diplomatic dialogue had commenced and a Sudanese delegation was currently visiting the United States. In an interview for the American CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, Mr. Khalifah spoke about Sudan's orientation and the efforts being made to liberate the economy and introduce self-reliance.

Turning to human rights, Mr. Khalifah said human rights were monitored in Sudan as a religious duty.

His excellency spoke about the next round of Abuja negotiations scheduled to be held soon, stressing that all the [rebel] factions had expressed readiness to participate.

The TNA speaker stressed at end of the interview that Sudan's foreign relations were governed by undeviating principles based on mutual respect and non-interference in internal affairs.

Egyptian Lecturers Welcome at al-Nilayn University

EA1403162393 Khartoum SUNA in English 1020 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] Khartoum, 14 Mar (SUNA)—Minister of higher education and scientific research, Ibrahim Ahmad Umar, has expressed the Sudanese Government's welcome of contracts with the Egyptian lecturers who would like to continue teaching at al-Nilayn University and other Sudanese universities.

Addressing student rally organised by al-Nilayn University Students' Union at the Friendship Hall Saturday [13 March], Prof Umar affirmed his ministry's readiness to develop and rehabilitate the university, pointing out that the university will teach the Sudanese curricula.

On the other hand, the secretary-general of the Revolution Command Council (RCC) and minister of the interior, Brig 'Abd-al- Rahim Muhammad Husayn, congratulated the university's students on the Sudanization of the university, pointing out that the revolution aims at building strong nation.

The vice-chancellor of al-Nilayn university, Prof Ibrahim al-Amin Hajar, said before the student rally that they have started in building the university's administration structure, stating that committees have been set up to work out the curricula. He affirmed necessity of maintaining academic relations between al-Nilayn University and Cairo University in Egypt.

The students' rally was also addressed by the chairman of the Sudanese Students General Union and chairman of al-Nilayn University's students' union, who asserted the students' support to the Sudanization of the university.

Further on Visit of Iraq's Industry Minister

Received by al-Bashir

JN1303123793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1143 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] Khartoum, 13 Mar (INA)—Sudanese President Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir received Iraqi Industry and Minerals Minister Lieutenant General 'Amir Hammudi al-Sa'di today, who is currently on a visit to Sudan..

In a statement to an INA correspondent in Khartoum, al-Sa'di said that he conveyed to Lt. Gen. al-Bashir his brother President Saddam Husayn's greetings and pride in Sudan's support for Iraq's confrontation of the Western-imperialist aggression, and its efforts to lift the unjust economic blockade that has been imposed on the Iraqi people for over two years. He added that during the meeting, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir expressed Sudan's pride in Iraq's steadfastness and confrontation of the American-Atlantic-Zionist aggression, and valued Iraq's achievements in the field of reconstructing what was destroyed by the 30-state aggression.

Talks With Khalifah, Foreign Minister

JN1403145293 Baghdad INA in English 1435 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] Khartoum, Mar 14, INA—Speaker of the Sudanese National Transitional Council Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah has lashed out at the continued comprehensive blockade imposed on Iraq.

In a meeting today with Iraqi Minister of Industry and Minerals General 'Amir Hammudi al-Sa'di, Mr. Khalifah affirmed that his country would do its utmost for lifting this unjust blockade.

On the other hand, the Iraqi minister met today the Sudanese foreign minister and put assertion on significance of the Arab solidarity for facing up to challenges besetting the Arab nation.

Talks End; Memorandum Signed

JN1503131493 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Iraqi-Sudanese talks have concluded in Khartoum with the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the two brotherly countries. The memorandum was signed for Iraq by Lieutenant General 'Amir Hammudi al-Sa'di, minister of industry and minerals, and for the Sudanese side by Dr. Taj al-Sirr Mustafa, minister of industry.

An INA correspondent in Khartoum reported that the memorandum provides for establishing a bureau for Iraqi technical coordination in Khartoum and making use of Iraqi expertise in specifications and standards, as well as exchanging expertise in industrial and engineering consultation, particularly in manufacturing construction materials, glass, engineering industries, manufacturing agricultural equipment and machines, and food industries.

The two ministers exchanged speeches on the occasion, expressing hope that this memorandum will enhance and promote bilateral cooperation in the interest of the two countries and the Arab and Islamic nation.

Lt. Gen. 'Amir Hammudi al-Sa'di expressed the Iraqi people's pride in Sudan's pro-Iraq stance while Iraq is facing a treacherous U.S. aggression.

Kuwait

Border Post Comes Under Iraqi Fire 15 Mar

NC1603090093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0807 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] Kuwait, 16 Mar (MENA)—The Kuwaiti border post of al-'Abdali came under sporadic fire from the Iraqi border post of Safwan last night. Kuwaiti troops responded in kind until the Iraqi side ceased its fire.

An official Kuwaiti source has announced that there were no casualties, adding that the fire was provocative and indiscriminate.

This is the third time al-'Abdali post has come under Iraqi fire in March.

Oil Minister Views U.S., European Tax Moves

NC1603111293 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Telephone interview with Kuwaiti Petroleum Minister 'Ali al- Baghli, in Kuwait, by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd, in Cairo, on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-al-Majd] Minister: Welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Al-Baghli] Greetings to you. I am pleased to be back with the dear listeners.

[Abu-al-Majd] The U.S. Administration has proposed imposing two new methods of taxation on conventional energy sources, petroleum included. The tax will reportedly be $3.48 a barrel. What is the reaction of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries, OAPEC, and the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, OPEC, since the EC earlier suggested levying a carbon tax? Has petrol become the only source of energy to be taxed?

[Al-Baghli] We are surprised and astonished at this. Everybody talks about the destruction of the environment and the greenhouse effect. We must think deeply. Does petrol-generated energy alone cause this? There is coal, nuclear energy, and electricity. All of these sources are dangerous; they are 10 times as destructive to the environment as petroleum. Why are they being selective? Why the bias against petroleum in particular? Coal, for example, pollutes the environment 10 times more than petroleum, but the tax the U.S. Administration imposed on coal is much less than that which it imposed on petroleum. Similarly, the European states joined a new European charter. A close look shows the Arab oil-producing states and OPEC to be the target. They want to enhance the use of petrol imported from the Eastern camp, as if the petrol imported from the former Eastern bloc does not pollute the environment. Only the petrol coming from the Middle East, Venezuela, Gabon, or Niger pollutes the environment. We are surprised.

[Abu-al-Majd] What is the situation now that the U.S. Administration seeks to impose a tax and the EC tries to impose taxes? We know that most petroleum reserves are in the Arab region. Do we understand that there is an attempt to sap Arab wealth?

[Al-Baghli] They want to discourage their people from using petroleum from our region. They also want to enhance their own budgets at our expense. I believe it is high time we took a similar stand. Revenue from the petrol we export to their countries finances our imports from them. Views must be united on adopting similar approaches. We must discourage our citizens from buying goods imported from their countries. We also want to improve our resources by using the revenue from the taxes we impose on these goods. They started this. This is reciprocal treatment that is recognized by international law.

[Abu-al-Majd] During your meeting in Jeddah, did you discuss the imposition of a similar tax by Arab states on imports from the states that want to tax petroleum?

[Al-Baghli] We discussed this issue with concern. It is no longer an issue of ideas and exchanged views; it is serious. The U.S. Administration and European states are serious in their plans. Japan may soon follow suit. Japan closely follows the conduct of these two blocs and will eventually follow them. We must act instead of waiting until things happen. Why don't we act now? The imposition of this tax will threaten the entire region—oil- producing and nonoil-producing states in the Arab region. This is our only source of income. This issue will affect the development of our entire region, because the whole region represents integrated unity.

[Abu-al-Majd] Some believe the advanced world is trying to transfer wealth from the developing countries to the developed world through this tax—at a time when they talk about liberating world trade and establishing a new world economic order. What is your view?

[Al-Baghli] I agree; they contradict themselves. They call for free trade and for lifting restrictions on trade and place a major obstacle in the way of the world's major source of trade, petrol. Why do they place these obstacles in its way? As oil producing countries, we received the news with disappointment. We have always called for determining moderate prices for oil and for maintaining the flow of petroleum. This is the reward we get; they blame us for the moderate oil prices. They want the prices to rise so that demand falls. Why don't we raise the price and benefit from the difference? They want to raise the price and put the difference in their pockets. As oil-producing states in the Arab and Third World regions, we must shake off our slumber and do something about this confrontation, which poses the gravest threat to our livelihood.

[Abu-al-Majd] What are the practical steps that oil-producing states can take to respond to these successive West-imposed taxes on our Arab and Third World oil?

[Al-Baghli] It will not do to act alone. We must discuss things among us and agree on a certain view. First, we must review oil prices. Current oil prices are low. We thought the West would be pleased if we reduced prices. Events show the opposite to be more correct. As I said, the West wants to raise oil prices and pocket the difference. Let us do something to raise oil prices and reduce demand. [as heard] We must do something. We are major producers; as you said, plenty of oil reserves are under our feet. We export about 25-30 percent of our energy. We must move to adopt similar measures on products we import from the West, Europe, America, and Japan. By imposing this tax on imports, we are bound to discourage others from imposing the planned tax. If we impose taxes on imports from America, Europe may be put off imposing a tax. If we impose a tax on imports from Europe, Japan may be discouraged; it may not impose a tax for fear of similar taxes on its exports and it would want to keep its products competitive. Let us do something. There are many other measures we can discuss and agree upon. A conference will held in Muscat, Oman, on 13 April among OPEC and non-OPEC states—over 35-40 states—to discuss this issue in detail.

[Abu-al-Majd] Reports say Kuwait may pull out of OPEC. How true are these reports?

[Al-Baghli] Last February, OPEC treated us unfairly. Although we cofounded this organization, we came under strong pressure to reduce our production quota in the next three months to 1.6 million barrels. We need liquid cash to rebuild our country, rehabilitate our oil installations, and make good the destruction to our country during Iraq's occupation of our peaceable state. The people and the National Assembly have been shocked. Following my return from the OPEC conference, I met the Assembly's financial committee and briefed them on what happened during the conference and on how we reached agreement. I told them we accepted the quota despite ourselves, having obtained a clear promise from OPEC that our quota would be increased in July.

[Abu-al-Majd] Is there any truth in reports of a pullout?

[Al-Baghli] No, no, of course not.

[Abu-al-Majd] Thank you.

Al-Mu'min 'All but Certain' To Become Chief of Staff

PM1503112893 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Mar 93 p 1

[Husayn 'Abd-al-Rahman report: "Al-Mu'min To Succeed Jabir al-Khalid as Kuwaiti Army Chief of Staff"]

[Text] Kuwait—It is all but certain that the Kuwaiti Government will appoint Major General 'Ali al-Mu'min chief of the General Staff of the Kuwaiti Army to succeed Shaykh Jabir al-Khalid al-Sabah, who submitted his resignation last month. This move assumes a marked significance, most importantly the perpetuation of the principle of employment succession and seniority in Kuwaiti Army appointments.

As is known, al-Mu'min occupied the post of deputy chief of staff of the Kuwaiti Army, which is likely to be assigned to Brigadier Fahd al-Amir.

Defense Ministry sources have said that al-Amir will be promoted to the rank of major general after his appointment to the new post.

Meanwhile, the fact-finding committee of the National Council has postponed until next week its meeting which was scheduled for yesterday.

The resigning chief of staff, Shaykh Jabir al-Khalid al-Sabah, was expected to appear before the committee to answer some queries concerning the circumstances of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

Saudi Arabia

Information Minister on 14 Mar Cabinet Session

LD1503150893 Riyadh SPA in English 1231 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Mecca, March 15, SPA—Custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, who chaired a meeting of the cabinet here last night, expressed pleasure over the big accomplishment realised in Mecca last Thursday with the endorsement of a national reconciliation agreement by the Afghan leaders.

The Saudi monarch thanked the almighty Allah for this achievement, according to a statement of 'Ali al-Sha'ir, the information minister, after the end of the cabinet session.

King Fahd noted that the talks of the Afghan leaders were held in a fine atmosphere and positive spirit .

He expressed hope that the Afghan people would be able to reconstruct their country and unify their ranks.

King Fahd thanked the countries and quarters, which congratulated him over this achievement this month at the most holiest place in the world.

On the other hand, King Fahd expressed satisfaction over the implementation of the expansion project at the holy mosque and the project of beautification and development of Mecca.

He described the expansion project as a gigantic one.

"We have been honoured by the almighty Allah to serve his holy house in Mecca as well as the prophet's mosque in Medina," King Fahd said. "Sooner, the pilgrims will benefit from the facilities extended to them by the Saudi government."

"We pray to the almighty Allah to enhance his bounties and enable us to do what pleases him," he said.

Al-Sha'ir said, then, the cabinet reviewed a report on developments at the Arab and Islamic levels as well as developments in the tense zones.

The king also reviewed the ongoing efforts by Arab, Islamic and international quarters to bring about peace in the Arab region.

Hisham Nazir, the minister of petroleum and mineral resources, briefed the cabinet on the outcome of the 18th meeting of the permanent ministerial committee for petroleum cooperation in the GCC states held in Jeddah last Saturday..

Nazir affirmed that the participants of the meeting held identical views on all topics that came up for discussion during its deliberations.

The cabinet reviewed also a number of topics on the agenda and approved appointment of 'Abd-al-Rahman Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin 'Abdallah al-Dawud as an advisor at the 15th grade at the presidency of the Commission of Commendation of Virtues and Prevention of Vices.

Al-Sha'ir said the cabinet will resume its meetings on Monday, April 5, 1993.

New Oil Field Discovered in Midyan Region

LD1503150993 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1045 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Riyadh, 15 Mar (SPA)—His Excellency Hisham Muhyi-al-Din Nazir, the minister of petroleum and mineral resources, has stated that the Saudi Arabian ARAMCO has discovered a new oil, gas, and condensates field in the Midyan region 160 km west of Tabuk and 550 km north of the industrial town of Yanbu'. Mr. Hisham Nazir added that this is the first field to be discovered on dry land in the northern region of the Red Sea of the Kingdom. Future plans include further drilling and seismic surveys to more fully determine the reserve of the Midyan region.

Bomb Defused Near UN Headquarters in al-Sulaymaniyah

NC1503172993 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] At 1030 today, a special detachment in al-Sulaymaniyah defused a time bomb containing 8 kgs of TNT hidden in a handcart. The bomb was set to explode in front of the UN observers' headquarters in the Sharash area of al-Sulaymaniyah. The charge was placed inside a car battery connected to a timer set to detonate the bomb after 20 minutes.

Warning of 'Consequences' of Infringing on Unity, Soil

JN1603084793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0735 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Mar (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH newspaper has warned the evil allied forces of the consequences of any attempt to infringe on Iraq's sovereignty, unity, and independence.

The paper, speaking on behalf of the Defense Ministry, stressed in an article today that Iraq's borders and territorial integrity are sacred, and that they are like a blade which severs the hand of whoever tries to infringe on them.

The paper adds that despite all facts and indications which confirmed the failure of the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist conspiracy against Iraq and its people, the enemies, alarmed by their wretched failure to undermine the Iraqi leadership, people, and land, have continued their failed wager on the conspiracy against Iraq under the cover of international resolutions.

AL-QADISIYAH goes on to say that the circumstances under which the Americans and other enemies of Iraq have tried to peddle the conspiracy have been exposed.

The paper affirms that despite its deep awareness of the dimensions of this chapter of the conspiracy against its unity and territorial integrity, Iraq would never give up one iota of its national soil, which is like a blade that severs the hand of anyone who tries to harm it.

Tariq 'Aziz Meets New Turkish Envoy in Baghdad

JN1503125493 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz today received Sadi Calislar, charge d'affaires of the Turkish Embassy in Baghdad, on assuming his new post.

Medical Teams Offered To Aid Yemeni Flood Victims

JN1403074493 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] An official source at the Ministry of Health made a statement to the Iraqi News Agency today, saying that Iraq has responded favorably to the appeal made by Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid urging Arab states to provide aid to the fraternal Republic of Yemen, which has recently been affected by storms and floods.

The source added: In light of the continuing unfair embargo on Iraq and the scarcity of medicines and medical supplies, the Arab League General Secretariat as well as the government of the fraternal Republic of Yemen have been informed of Iraq's readiness to dispatch medical and health teams to Yemen to contribute to the performance of this duty toward fraternal Yemenis.

BABIL on Recent Moves To Normalize Arab Ties

JN1403113893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] No dateline as received—The newspaper BABIL describes the letters recently sent by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to several Arab presidents and kings as an expression of the need to forge new inter-Arab ties.

In an article published today entitled "Iraq and Arab Ties," the paper adds that the recent Iraqi diplomatic moves were based on a strong and cogent stand. These moves, the paper notes, aimed to mobilize Arab potentials so that the Arabs may face the dangers posed by a changing new world. This is because the language which enjoys wide circulation in today's contemporary world is that of strength and steadfastness—two requirements which cannot be secured without a new brand of Arab solidarity.

The paper goes on to say: While observing Iraq acquire additional strength and firmness in the aftermath of the aggression, the wise among Arabs and non-Arabs now realize that that they have to normalize their ties with it sooner or later and to adapt their positions, circumstances, and relations accordingly.

The paper affirms that Iraq is now, more than ever before, held in high esteem by all big and small countries, because it has demonstrated its strength and steadfastness and defeated the schemes which sought to destroy and partition it.

The paper adds: Now that it has worked miracles in the field of reconstruction—miracles that have astonished the world—, Iraq has become a hard fact in the region and the world at large. Only a stupid or a backward person can ignore this fact and its impact.

In conclusion, the paper says: Since the conflict reached its peak, and since all means have been used to settle the conflict to the adversaries' advantage, but to no avail, as Iraq has continued to hold out, the policy of normalizing ties among conflicting and warring states is the only rational and practical option left. The fact that it has been proven to be impossible to ignore Iraq's regional role dictates the normalization of ties with it.

Al-Tikriti Families 'Tighten Grip' on Government

PM1603120693 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 13 Mar 93 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Iraqi Authorities Executed al-Juburi After Accusing Him of Dealing With Damascus"]

[Text] Irbil, AL-HAYAH—Citing Iraqis who have contacts with some security organs and who fled from Baghdad last week, reliable sources have told AL-HAYAH that Staff Brigadier General Muhammad Bilal al-Juburi, who was recently executed by the Iraqi authorities, had been charged with plotting against the state and against President Saddam Husayn "at the instigation of Damascus."

They added that al-Juburi was responsible for the Syria section of the military bureau attached to the ruling Socialist Ba'th Party in Iraq and had his headquarters in Mosul close to the Syrian border, and his task was to "coordinate with the Syrian opposition with the aim of overthrowing the Damascus regime."

They said that two Iraqi intelligence units had stormed al-Juburi's office in Mosul to arrest him. It is believed that two other senior officers, one of them a pilot, were executed with him. They belonged to the big al-Jubur tribes allied with the al-Tikriti families which rule Iraq under Saddam Husayn's leadership.

The same sources also spoke of rumors about the imprisonment of Staff Maj. Gen. 'Abd-al-Mutlaq al-Juburi, commander of the 16th Corps, for five years on the charge of collusion with Brig. Gen. Muhammad Bilal al-Juburi. 'Abd-al-Mutlaq had been discharged from the army but was arrested by the intelligence service about four months ago. Al-Jubur tribal shaykhs were also arrested and their movable and immovable properties were confiscated.

The sources added that the Defense Ministry also removed all al-Juburi tribe members from the special guard and the special security and emergency forces at the presidential palace.

A wave of rumors swept Baghdad recently about measures aimed basically at tightening the al-Tikriti families' grip on the government. The newspaper AL-WIFAQ, published in London by the opposition's "Iraqi National Democratic Accord Grouping," last week quoted "party source in Baghdad" as saying that there was an inclination to dismiss a number of Revolution Command Council [RCC] members and to appoint Saddam's relatives in their places, and also carry out a cabinet reshuffle under which the Iraqi president's two sons 'Udayy and Qusayy would join the cabinet.

The "Accord Grouping" is led by Salah 'Umar al-'Ali, who is a relative of Saddam and who was a leading Ba'thist and minister of culture and information after the Ba'thists seized power in the coup which brought down former President 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Arif in July 1968.

According to information published by AL-WIFAQ, Iraqi Vice Presidents Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf (a Kurd) and Taha Yasin Ramadan will be ousted from the RCC, the highest governing body, and will be replaced by 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, Saddam's cousin and defense minister, and Husayn Kamil Hasan al-Majid, who is Saddam's cousin and brother-in-law and official in charge of military industrialization.

The paper added that 'Udayy will be appointed culture and information minister and Qusayy will be appointed interior minister in place of his uncle Watban who will resign his post because of his deep differences with 'Ali Hasan al-Majid. It said that Chief of Intelligence Lt. Gen. Sabir al-Duri has been nominated for the post of defense minister and will be succeeded by 'Abd Hasan al-Majid. The paper further said that the rumors tip Lieutenant General Sultan Hashim for the post of chief of the general staff in the place of Lieutenant General Iyad Futayh al-Rawi, who will be appointed ambassador abroad.

According to informed sources in London, Barzan al-Tikriti, Iraq's representative at the international organizations in Geneva who has recently been appointed political adviser to Saddam Husayn, will remain in Geneva for the time being. His family is still there.

Defense Minister Confers With Yugoslav Army Chief of Staff

JN1503173993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1545 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Mar (INA)—Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, member of the Revolution Command Council and minister of defense, today received General Zifota Panic, chief of staff of the Yugoslav Army, and the delegation accompanying him.

The defense minister said that Iraq has always cautioned Nonaligned Movement [NAM] members about the dangers inherent in the prevalence of a single world power, and noted the need to coordinate positions to curb the belligerence of the U.S.-led camp of evildoers, which aims to foment ethnic and religious disputes to tear apart third world peoples who aspire to progress and peace. This belligerence, he added, also aims to realize the U.S. ambitions of seizing the Third World peoples' resources and imposing custodianship over these peoples.

The defense minister went on to say that Iraqis, under His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, have accepted the challenge presented by the great showdown of the eternal Mother of Battles to express their rejection of the U.S.-Atlantic injustice and aggression. Iraqis, the minister maintained, offered dear sacrifices in blood as a price for their freedom and independent national will.

For his part, the Yugoslav Army chief of staff paid tribute to the strong ties of friendship existing between the two countries, and noted the common destiny of the Iraqi and Yugoslav peoples as well as their effective roles as important members of NAM, which treasures the independent decisionmaking of its members and calls for consistent efforts to resolve regional and international disputes by peaceful means in realization of its declared and constant approach, which has consistently called for making constant efforts to establish world peace and security.

Gen. Zifota Panic exposed the subversive role of U.S. imperialism, as demonstrated by its unilateral domination of world affairs. He also exposed the policy of those revolving in its orbit, which aims to destroy Yugoslavia and tear apart the NAM, which has a large membership including the countries which choose to be an influential weight on the international scene. He affirmed the importance of achieving a just and peaceful international solution to the tragedy currently unfolding in Yugoslavia.

The meeting was attended by Staff General Iyad Futayyih al-Rawi, Army chief of staff.

Rabin Gives Washington News Conference

TA1503201593 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Joint news conference by President Bill Clinton and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at the White House on 15 March—live, in English with occasional, superimposed translation into Hebrew by correspondent; broadcast in progress]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted with President Clinton's remarks]

[Rabin] President Clinton, in just a few days I will return to Israel, but I know, and will tell everyone in my country, Israel has a friend in the White House. Our home is many miles away, but Mr. President, we feel very close. We thank you for the hours we spent with you and your team, for the atmosphere of friendship, the openness, and the depth of our discussions. The leadership which you have displayed in coping with America's domestic problems is inspiring and stands out like a beacon in the night. Today, we were happy to learn that at the same time, you are also willing to invest efforts in promoting peace and stability in the Middle East. In this effort, Mr. President, you will find us to be full partners. You are aware that no one wants peace more than us, and that there is no country more resolved to defend itself when necessary. We are veterans of many wars, and today we say: No more blood and tears, we now wish to experience lasting and meaningful peace.

In our talks today I presented to you Israel's approach to the peacemaking, and we are willing to take upon ourselves risks for peace, but we are determined to protect our security. Peace has many enemies. Terror is used by the enemies of peace in an effort to undermine it, and we will combat it while we continue to seek a solution that will lead to peace. Since the formation of my government, we have invested efforts in trying to advance towards peace in the framework of the peace [words indistinct due to correspondent's superimposed translation] with new ideas in the negotiation tracks with Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and the Palestinians. Some progress has been made, but more is needed in order to come to agreements. We are ready for compromise, but compromises cannot be one-sided. We call on our partners—the Arab states, the Palestinians from the territories—to seize the moment to return to the negotiating table so that we can use this historic opportunity. We call upon them to respond openly and willingly to our positions. Our children and grandchildren in Jerusalem and the Arab children and grandchildren in Damascus, Beirut, Amman, and elsewhere in the Arab world will not forgive us if we all fail to act now.

We have heard today with satisfaction, Mr. President, your concept of the role of the full partner as an intermediary. We shall continue our direct talks with our Arab neighbors, but in order to expedite the dialogue between the parties, we welcome your good offices and hope to rely on your role as facilitator.

President Clinton, we are deeply indebted to you and to your predecessors, who helped us in hours of need. We do appreciate and greatly value the decision to maintain the current level of aid to Israel. This decision will help us to integrate new immigrants into our society and to bear the heavy burden of our security. You know, Mr. President, that we will not be able to win the battle for peace without a qualitative edge. Therefore, I wish to thank you and your colleagues on behalf of the Israeli soldiers and their parents, and the citizens of Israel, for your decision to help to maintain that edge. Moreover, such a qualitative edge enables the Israeli Defense Forces to contribute to the overall effort to maintain stability in our stormy region.

The decision made today to raise the level of strategic dialogue between our two countries will open new doors of opportunity. The fact that in the next months we will renew the memorandum of agreement between us for five more years, and that we do it as a matter of course, is a proof of the kind of mutually beneficial relationships that we enjoy.

The formation of a new high-level form for a strategic dialogue will further upgrade these relationships. We will also have to turn in the near future with much urgency to address the struggle against various kinds of fanaticism, which give birth to murderous terror, the kind that recently landed even on these shores. We must institutionalize our dialogue and include all free countries in consultations on the ways to curb the threatening extremism. We attach much importance to the decision made today to create a high- level joint commission for the development of projects of science and technology. The investment in research and industrial applications in Israel and in America will explore new frontiers of knowledge and they are a telling example of how our two countries can mutually benefit from this cooperation.

President Clinton, thank you for your invitation and reception, for the warmth on a wintry day, and for your goodwill. I came from Jerusalem, the city of the prophets. I return to Jerusalem, the city that witnessed so many wars and wants so dearly peace because she knows that in war there are no winners, and in peace, no losers. Thank you very much.

[Passage omitted with question by unidentified correspondent to President Clinton and his answer]

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. President, are you willing to become personally involved, and Mr. Prime Minister to what extent are you willing to see the President become personally involved in this peace process?

[Rabin] Well, as you can expect, I cannot answer in the name of the President of the United States, but I believe, as it has happened, whenever agreements were reached between the Arab countries and Israel, from 1974 to 1979, and even the creation of the Madrid peace conference, could not be achieved without the United States being involved in encouraging the parties to do so. I

believe there was, there is, a need of the United States partnership to the peace-making process. At what level, at what time, it is not up to me to answer. [passage omitted with President Clinton's remarks]

[Unidentified correspondent] [words indistinct]...the policy of self-determination for the people on the West Bank and Gaza who have been living for years under military occupation. Mr. Prime Minister, do you think that during your regime there will be any measure of self-rule for the Palestinians?

[Rabin] I don't want to give you a lengthy answer, but allow me to say, in 1967 we did not want war. It's more than that, even though we found ourselves in a clash with the Egyptians, we offered to the Jordanians, stay out of the war, and we will keep your line with us without any change. If you will follow the history, we were always for compromise: UN decision—partition of Palestine into two states—we accepted, they rejected. They went to war to destroy. It is bad luck to the Arabs, whenever they go to war, they lose. We offered them this time, to the Palestinians in the territories, what no one offered them when the Arab countries were in occupation—Jordan of the West Bank, Egypt of the Gaza Strip—self-rule, run your own life by yourself, as an interim agreement for a transition period of not more than five years. No later than the third year, we are ready to enter negotiations with them about a permanent solution based on Resolutions 242 and 338. What else can we do? By violence and terror, no one will make us run. The solution should be around the negotiation table, by talks, not by weapons. [passage omitted with President Clinton's remarks]

[Unidentified correspondent] Could I ask both of you to address the question of bilateral arrangements between Israel and Syria? It seems that the prime minister in recent statements has backed away from some earlier statements that Israel would never go down from the Golan Heights. Is there a change, would Israel be prepared to accept a complete withdrawal from the Golan Heights in exchange for complete peace with Syria along the lines of the Israeli-Egyptian peace agreement, and would the United States welcome that kind of separate Israeli-Syrian agreement, even in advance of a Palestinian agreement?

[Rabin] Well, first we are serious in our negotiations with everyone of the Arab partners for the peace negotiations. We are ready to negotiate and reach agreement with everyone of the partners that sit around the negotiation table with us. Second, peace has to be negotiated not between me, as the prime minister of Israel, and you, after all you don't represent Syria. We made it clear that we accept the principle of withdrawal of the armed forces of Israel on the Golan Heights to secure and recognized boundaries, but we will not enter into negotiations on the dimension of the withdrawal without knowing what kind of peace Syria offers us. Is it fully- fledged peace, open boundaries for movement of people and goods, diplomatic relations, including embassies, normalization of relations? Will the peace treaty stand on its own two feet, will not be influenced by what happens or does not happen in the negotiations with the other Arab partners? Before we will know that why do I have to say how much we will withdraw? It is an issue to be agreed on between Syria and ourselves, with the assistance of the United States. [passage omitted with President Clinton's remarks]

[Rabin] I can speak only as an Israeli and in the name of Israel. I believe that the government that I serve as its prime minister is the first government that accepted the principle or the Resolutions 242 and 338 as applicable to the achievement of peace. No government in the past did so, which shows that we understand that in peace compromises have to be made by both sides. [passage omitted with questions to President Clinton and his replies]

Rabin Comments on Knifings, Clinton Meeting

TA1603060093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Arye Golan in Washington on 15 March—recorded]

[Text] [Golan] Mr. Prime Minister, Israel has been shaken by the recent spate of knifings and terrorism. What can you say to the citizens who expect the government, with you at its head, to remove Gaza from Tel Aviv's throat, as it were?

[Rabin] One of the goals of my talks in Washington is to expedite the peace negotiations, including those with the Palestinians. Only a political solution can completely solve this problem, because such a solution will change the conditions that motivate extremist elements: both terror organizations and individual Palestinians who are inspired by the growing atmosphere of hate between them and us. The fundamental answer to the problem is, therefore, a political solution. Meanwhile, we must find ways to decrease these phenomena. We cannot promise that they will not recur as long as 100,000-120,000 Palestinians from the territories work in Israel and as long as there is no political solution in the territories—mainly, but not only, in Gaza.

[Golan] Meanwhile, is the only solution for every Israeli to carry a gun in what will become a Wild West? Does not Police Commissioner Terner's call to arms constitute an admission of failure by those responsible for internal security in Israel?

[Rabin] I do not think this constitutes an admission of failure. Under the present circumstances, where Israel or at least certain elements in its economy prefer Palestinian to Israeli labor, and as long as we are responsible for the territories and for the Palestinian inhabitants, we must see to it that the Palestinians also have work. The fewer the number of Palestinians who work in Israel, however, the smaller the danger to 4 million Israelis living within the Green Line and Jerusalem, even if this means that there will be slightly more problems in the

territories. I have always called for giving preference to the Israeli and Israeli Arab unemployed over the inhabitants of the territories with regard to job opportunities.

[Golan] Mr. Prime Minister, how would you describe your meeting with President Clinton? Was there chemistry between you? Would you say we have a real friend in the White House?

[Rabin] The atmosphere was excellent. I feel that we really do have a friend in the White House. I think that he intends to help us. He understands the risks Israel is facing on the way toward the peace we are seeking. The President is willing to look for ways to minimize these risks if and when we attain peace.

Commentary Assesses Clinton-Rabin Meeting

TA1603100693 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 16 Mar 93 pp 1, 15

[Commentary by Nahum Barne'a in Washington: "A Detached Visit"]

[Text] A sense of detachment surrounds the prime minister's visit to Washington. It may be an important visit, but it would be hard to say that it is interesting.

The Israeli public opinion is currently enraged by the daily recurrence of terror attacks in Israel and the territories. Rabin will not find a solution to this disturbing problem with Clinton. As of the time this was being written, he had not yet chosen to deliver a self-assured and calming message to the troubled Israelis. Rabin is a single-board chess player. It seems that when he focuses on Clinton, he forgets the knives.

The American public opinion is also not very interested in this visit. As far as it is concerned, it is a technical visit; something you just do. There is no message. There is no drama. Addressing the press last night, Clinton gave all the right answers. His and his men's friendship toward Israel is riding a sincere and businesslike track. Nonetheless, when Rabin spoke, Clinton's right eye was half shut. If body language is any indication, Clinton showed friendly indifference. There is no "Yitzhaq" nor "Bill." Clinton, who is usually quite physical, only tapped Rabin lightly on the shoulder when the event was over. Rabin tapped his feet impatiently.

Clinton and Rabin are twins, one of my colleagues remarked, just like Arnold Schwartzenegger and Danny DeVito.

Clinton is also playing a single board: that of domestic policy. Everything else is less important, and there are far more fascinating foreign affairs: the Russian issue or the North Korean nuclear plots, for example.

On the eve of Rabin's departure, Yitzhaq Shamir was unusually rude in wishing him failure on his visit. So far, there has been no indication that Shamir's prayers have been answered. Rabin is doing an important job in explaining and implanting his government's positions. He is not returning the Golan, unless this is done within the framework of the formula he has adopted over the past several months, according to which Israel agrees to a withdrawal in principle and will determine its scope by the scope of peace. Judging from Clinton's remarks yesterday, the Americans are buying this formula: They expect Syria—if and when—to give total peace and expect Israel to respond with a total withdrawal.

We used to be moved to tears at the sight of an Israeli flag proudly hoisted in the White House's East Room behind the U.S. President. We have grown up, and it is a good thing we did. Perhaps this is the reason why, after the meeting, the feeling was one of courteous boredom. Ho hum, Yitzhaq Shamir used to say about such a meeting. Ho hum.

Peres: No Closure on Territories Friday 19 Mar

TA1503142893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says it has been decided not to impose a closure on the territories next weekend. He said that he consulted with the prime minister over the telephone whether to impose a curfew next Friday, which is also the last Friday of Ramadan. He said that both the prime minister and himself reached the conclusion this was uncalled for from the security point of view. Peres said this decision has nothing to do with Mr. Rabin's visit to Washington and fear that this closure would disrupt the visit.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Mr. Peres made these remarks upon leaving the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Minister Peres noted that the cabinet is waiting for the proposals of the security forces on how to combat the recent wave of terrorism. According to Peres the security forces will come up with a solution, just as they have found a solution to the previous surge of stone throwing incidents. Mr. Peres also said that the knifers are not backed by an organization, and that they operated independently.

Peres: No Military Answer to Terrorism

TA1503054893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says there is no military answer to terrorism and the wave of knifings. Speaking last night on security and democracy before the National Defense College, Peres said that peace is an integral part of security and only by a combination of military and political measures can the terrorist threat be overcome. Afterwards, the foreign minister spoke with reporter Alan Ben-'Ami.

[Begin recording] [Ben-'Ami] Mr. Peres, the government decided today to deal with the current situation as fully as possible within the extent of the law. But there are those who say that the law puts too many limitations,

sometimes they see deportations, house demolitions as not severe enough, and ask why the question of the death penalty is not being introduced. Do you plan any legislative changes to deal with this situation?

[Peres] I do not think the problem is of a legislative nature. I think every time people are returning to the death penalty, and yet no government—whether from the Likud or Labor—ever tried to implement it, because the damage may be finally greater than the utility of it. I think we have to fight it out with the necessary security means on the one hand and to continue our peace process on the other hand, and not to let our hearts fall down.

[Ben-'Ami] The call by the police commissioner for citizens who have weapons to carry them at all times prompted some debate. What is your attitude to this?

[Peres] Since it was called, let us try it.

[Ben-'Ami] And how do you respond to those who say: Stop the peace talks until the Palestinians stop the terror?

[Peres] It is total nonsense, because this means that the terrorists will be the judges when to renew the peace talks.

[Ben-'Ami] You do not accept the argument?

[Peres] I would not hand over the fate neither of the Palestinians themselves and certainly not of the Israelis to the hands of the terrorists.

[Ben-'Ami] You would not accept the argument, though, that the peace talks, in fact, are also a spur to terror amongst those who want to carry out terror?

[Peres] No. There was terror when there were not peace talks.

[Ben-'Ami] How do you see the situation with regard to the peace talks? The Palestinians are still refusing at the moment to come back until the deportees are returned.

[Peres] I do not think that is their last word, and I would wait patiently until the end of April and hope that they will come to the table of negotiations. [end recording]

Knesset Discusses Security; Rabin Criticized

TA1503165193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] The Likud, the NRP [National Religious Party], and Tzomet have presented no-confidence motions. They charge that the government's lenient policy encourages the terrorists to step up attacks. The Knesset will debate the motions on 22 March.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal said the defense establishment is holding urgent consultations on several planned moves in the territories. He said that in searches conducted on the Temple Mount, cold-steel weapons, including knives, were found. Addressing Labor's Knesset faction, Shahal said that 200,000 Muslim worshipers are expected on the Temple Mount on Friday, which means that the police will have to deploy large forces there. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Shahal noted that police experts believe that there will be a further rise in violence.

Labor Knesset Member Dalya Itzik said that a full-time defense minister must be appointed. She said that if Mr. Rabin is so in love with that post, he should give up being prime minister, and Labor will find him a suitable replacement for him.

The Emunim settlers movement called on the prime minister to return home immediately because of the latest developments. Our correspondent Mikha'el Tuchfeld reports that the movement reminded Mr. Rabin that he was abroad when the intifadah broke out, and called on him not to repeat his mistake.

'Peace Now' Sends Letter to Rabin

TA1503175793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] The Peace Now Movement has sent a letter to the prime minister in Washington in which it states that the continued occupation of the territories is a central cause of Palestinian terrorism. The movement calls on the prime minister to facilitate a solution to the conflict and to come up with ways to involve the Americans and other elements in the negotiations.

Several hundred settlers are currently demonstrating in front of the prime minister's home in Jerusalem against the increase in the number of terror attacks. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that a short time ago the demonstrators broke through the police roadblocks and are blocking 'Aza Street, torches in hands. The settlers hoisted a large placard reading: Yehoshu'a Weissbrod and Uri Megidish were murdered by the Fatah; Rabin, you who are negotiating peace with Fatah, how can you sleep at night?

Beacons were lit in 32 Golan Heights settlements this evening to protest Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's willingness to negotiate over withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that a similar demonstration is currently being held in the Megiddo Junction.

Security Meeting Decides To Reinforce Army, Police

TA1603094293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] In a consultation on the domestic security situation held at the foreign minister's bureau today, it was decided to reinforce Army and police forces within the Green Line and in the territories. It was also decided to increase coordination and mutual help among all the security forces and to implement other measures to

improve the domestic security situation. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that it was decided that all these measures will be implemented while maintaining the regular daily routine both in the territories and within the Green Line. Apparently the issue of a closure on the territories was also raised during the meeting, but at this point it was decided not to implement such a measure. The meeting was attended by Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres; Police Minister Moshe Shahal; Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur; Police Commissioner Ya'aqov Terner; Major General Dani Rothschild, coordinator of activities in the territories; senior Army officers, and Shin Bet representatives.

These steps come in addition to a series of measures already implemented by the police yesterday, such as the cancellation of all vacations and increasing the number of policemen in the field by more than 30 percent until further notice. Great appreciation was expressed today for the activity of the security forces both in the territories and within the Green Line. The police call on the public to maintain top alert during this period.

Remand of U.S. Hamas Member Extended 18 Days

TA1503151493 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1430 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] The remand of another U.S. citizen suspected of belonging to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] was extended today by 18 days. The president of the Ramallah Military Court extended Anwar Hamdan's detention on the basis of secret information presented to him. Udi Segal, our correspondent in the territories, reports that according to intelligence evaluations, Hamdan was involved in subversive activities in Israel and abroad.

Soldier 'Slightly' Wounded in Gaza Attack

TA1503183093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] A makeshift grenade was thrown at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol in the Al-Burayj refugee camp in Gaza this evening. One of the soldiers was slightly wounded. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the soldiers launched a search after the assailants.

Settlers Stone Arab Cars, Clash With IDF on West Bank

TA1503164593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Angry Jewish settlers this afternoon blocked the main Ramallah-Nabulus road with rocks and burning tires and stoned passing Arab cars. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the windshields of at least 15 vehicles were smashed. The security forces cleared the settlers from the road. They later blocked the center of al-Birah, and clashed with the IDF [Israel Defense Forces].

'Defense Source' Labels Hit-Run 'Terrorist Attack'

TA1503164393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] The two young people killed this morning near Shilo when they were hit by an Arab vehicle from the territories, are Ya'aqov Brakha, 28, of the settlement of Har Brakha near Nabulus, and 'Ofer Kohen, 25, of Ofaqim. Brakha will be buried in one hour at the Netanya cemetery. The car that ran them over escaped from the scene and was later found in the Nabulus area. The driver has still not be caught, and security forces are searching for him. A defense source told our correspondent Moti Amir that it was apparently a terrorist attack.

Arab Stabs Israeli in Hand, Assailant Still at Large

TA1503151793 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1430 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] An Israeli was wounded in the hand when he was stabbed by an Arab in Bet Shemesh. The wounded man is now being treated on the spot. The assailant escaped in the direction of the exit from the town, and our police affairs correspondent Asaf Ya'ari reports that security forces are now looking for him.

IDF Confirms Interrogation, Release of Lebanese Citizens

TA1503081993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] IDF [Israel Defense Forces] sources have confirmed that an IDF unit that operated north of the security zone brought back with it several Lebanese residents, who were questioned prior to their being released. The confirmation was given to our correspondent Yo'av Aviv, who learned about the affair from Lebanese sources. The Lebanese citizens were questioned about terrorist activities.

British Official Meets With Prime Minister

JN1503174393 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] The prime minister, al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, received at his office this morning Mr. Michael Burton, the assistant under secretary of the British Foreign Office. The foreign minister and the minister of state for the prime ministry's affairs, and the British ambassador in Amman attended the meeting.

During the meeting, they reviewed relations between Jordan and the United Kingdom. The two sides asserted that relations between the two countries are based on cooperation and mutual respect for the benefit of their two friendly countries. They also discussed ways to promote these relations in the various fields.

The talks between the prime minister and the British official also dealt with the situation in the region, particularly the Middle East peace talks, the obstacles standing in the way of these talks, and the role of each of Jordan and the United Kingdom in achieving a just and comprehensive settlement based on United Nations resolutions and international legitimacy. The two sides affirmed the need to resolve the problem of the Palestinian expellees since it is an obstacle to the Middle East peace process. They said United Nations Security Council Resolution 799 should be implemented in this connection.

In a statement after the talks, the British official said his talks with the prime minister and senior Jordanian officials were excellent. He said such talks helped the British Government to further understand the Jordanian position towards the various issues of interest to the region. He added that there is a great degree of similarity between the British and the Jordanian positions.

Mr. Burton said he hoped a solution could be found for the crisis of the Palestinian expellees so that the Middle East peace talks between Arabs and Israelis would be resumed.

Asked about the recent contacts between British and Palestine Liberation Organization officials, he said his government believes that it is about time to use its influence to persuade all the concerned sides, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, to resume the peace talks.

U.S. Possible Pressure in Palestinian Talks

JN1403102293 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 14 Mar 93 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "The Peace Process, Between the U.S.-Israeli Alliance and Arab Coordination"]

[Text] Rabin's visit to Washington and his meetings with President Clinton and senior U.S. Administration officials may put the peace negotiations at a crossroad, especially since Clinton has promised Rabin's government to extend the military and economic assistance Israel needs. This may encourage Rabin's government to go ahead with its hard-line policy and positions on the deportee issue and the resolutions of the international legitimacy.

The Clinton administration considers Israel its strategic ally in the region. This may result in new and dangerous commitments by Washington toward Israel, and this raises the concern and fears of the Arab cordon states and the Palestinian side.

The Clinton administration has encouraged Rabin's government to deal lightly with Security Council Resolution 799 on the deportee issue, and helped it escape its political impasse with the international community and Security Council.

Since Clinton's administration has proclaimed itself a full partner in the peace process, there is no doubt that it will support the Israeli position, and may bring strong pressure to bear on the Arab parties to force them to participate in the negotiations that will be held next April without the participation of the Palestinian side.

During his current visit to Jordan, Faruq Qaddumi [head of the PLO's Political Department] expressed concern and fears that the Arab parties may participate in the peace talks without the Palestinian delegation. Hence, it should be stressed that the Damascus meeting of the Arab cordon states late this month should decide the Arab position on the deportee issue and participation in the forthcoming negotiations.

The Arab parties, including the Palestinian party, have noticed that Rabin's government is backing down from its promises, and that its positions are daily becoming more hard-line with the encouragement and support of the U.S. Administration. This is a new impediment to the peace negotiations and may prevent their resumption, at least in the foreseeable future.

Since Rabin's government is relentlessly trying to torpedo the coordination between the cordon states and to fragment the peace process and conclude separate agreements with this or that Arab party, the Arab parties should be vigilant and alert, and they should have faith in the extreme importance of coordination. The Damascus meeting late this month is an important opportunity to emphasize the unity of their position, which is based on the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Jordan has stressed more than once that it will not participate in the negotiations without the Palestinian side. The Jordanian- Palestinian talks yesterday have reasserted this Jordanian commitment and bolstered bilateral coordination.

UN Official in Amman Apologizes for 'Arafat Insult

JN1303110093 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13 Mar 93 p 3

["By a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter"]

[Text] Amman—A senior U.N. official has apologised to Palestinian colleagues over comments seen as insulting Yasir 'Arafat during a routine meeting in Amman, but the issue does not seem to have been settled despite U.N. assertions that the matter was closed.

Angela Williams, director of relief and social service of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), sent the "apology" to the area staff union of the agency in Amman after a formal complaint was sent to the UNRWA headquarters in Vienna.

The comments which triggered the controversy were made by Mrs. Williams on the appearance of a fully-bearded cafeteria worker who served tea at an internal UNRWA meeting in Amman on Feb. 25.

The appearance of cafeteria workers "should not be disgusting with his beard as Yasir 'Arafat," Mrs. Williams said, according to the formal complaint, a copy of which was obtained by the Jordan Times.

"We, the Palestinian participants in the meeting, were very astonished to observe this aggressive and impolite behaviour from a director of relief and social services working for and with the Palestinian people," said the complaint, signed by 'Aziz Dawud, Mahmud Salih and Jihad Tahir, three senior UNRWA officials in Amman.

"We felt that this was a big intended insult addressed to all Palestinian people in general and to us as participants in the meeting in particular," it said. ".... Please note that such behaviour has been considered by us as an unjustified insult addressed to all Palestinians represented worldwide by President 'Arafat...."

The complaint, dated Feb. 28, 1993, sought to bring the issue to the attention of the commissioner-general of the U.N. agency, which offers services to Palestine refugees, "for his kind discretion."

Emilio Pyrich, chief public information officer of UNRWA in Vienna, said Mrs. Williams had apologised for her comments.

"There was a complaint by some members of the staff," Mr. Pyrich told the Jordan Times over the phone. "Mrs. Williams has apologised in a letter (that) at the meeting she made a mistake.

"Our view is that the apology has removed the misunderstanding," he added, without elaboration.

According to UNRWA sources in Amman, Mrs. Williams' letter expressed "regret" over her comments, which were "not intended at insulting anyone."

Mrs. Williams said she was "saddened and shocked" that she had "unwittingly offended" the "sensitive feelings and perceptions" of those present during the meeting.

She said she had made the comments in the context of discussing the "image" and "visual perceptions" of UNRWA.

"I offer you my sincerest apologies," the source quoted the letter as saying.

Asked whether the agency considered the issue as closed, Mr. Pyrich said from Vienna: "Yes."

But UNRWA staff members in Amman said they had neither accepted nor rejected the apology.

"It is a matter to be decided by the staff union," said Mr. Dawud, one of the signatories to the complaint.

"We have nothing against Mrs. Angela Williams, who has an excellent record of devotion to her work," he told the Jordan Times. "What matters to us is that such offending comments came from a person who occupies a very senior position in the agency."

Mr. Dawud declined further comment saying he was "bound by any decision that the staff union would adopt."

UNRWA insiders said that while the performance record of Mrs. Williams, a British national who has been with the agency for over 20 years, had no blemish whatsoever, many agency officials were offended in the past by her "patronising approach."

"Her behaviour is very condescending," said an UNRWA employee, who declined to be identified. "In her dealings with her Middle Eastern colleagues, she appears to be always indirectly reminding us—Palestinians and others—that we should be thankful that the Europeans, particularly the British, were the donors and we the recipients of help."

No comment was available from Mrs. Williams on this contention.

Returnees Report Torture in Kuwait, Gulf

JN1303104993 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13 Mar 93 pp 1, 5

[By Maryam M. Shahin, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—Over 6,000 Jordanians and Palestinians who returned to Jordan from Kuwait and other Gulf countries in the post- war period have reported that they were physically harmed, mostly by means of torture, by their Gulf country hosts.

A Department of Statistics Survey conducted among over 70,000 returnees in 24,635 households found that

at least one family member in every four households reported an incident of torture or violation of "honour."

Of the households surveyed 6,023 reported that one member of their family has been tortured, while 114 households reported that the honour of one of their family members had been violated. The survey did not specify other forms of physical harm, but 94 households reported other types of "harm" had been done to their members.

The Survey scanned returnees who arrived in Jordan between Aug. 10, 1991 and Dec. 31, 1992.

Yahya 'Utaybi, head of the Cooperative Society for Gulf War Returnees, said that those who remained in Kuwait after the war were at greater risk of being "hurt" than the majority of the returnees who came to Jordan before the outbreak of the war in January 1991.

"The negative vibrations against Jordanians and Palestinians were much more obvious after the liberation of Kuwait," Mr. 'Utaybi told the Jordan Times.

The survey found that 88.59 per cent of returnees came from Kuwait with the rest from other Arab Gulf countries.

Fifty seven per cent of the returnees have settled in Amman, 25 per cent in al-Zarqa', 12 per cent in Irbid and two per cent in al-Balqa' Governorate while another two per cent settled in the West Bank, the survey found.

Estimated 38 per cent of returnees are under the age of 15 and a big majority of them born in Kuwait.

Those working with Gulf war returnees in need say that it is difficult to assess the long-term effects of the torture some of them underwent.

Most torture victims, says Dr. Ghazi 'Abdallah who head a clinic at the Cooperative Society for the Gulf war returnees, would like to put their suffering behind them. A good number of the torture victims were burnt with cigarettes, and received blows to their heads and other sensitive parts of their bodies as well as cuts and bruises.

Many, Dr. Ghazi told the Jordan Times, suffer from various nervous disorders which can be traced to imprisonment. Others were denied essential medicines although they had kidney problems or suffered from heart diseases or diabetes.

"As a result, many people's health, which was kept in reasonable condition through drugs, permanently degenerated," Dr. Ghazi says.

Their physical problems render many of the tortured returnees less capable than others of finding work.

"A lack of physical stamina as well as depression keeps the morale low and kills the initiative to find work," Dr. Ghazi said.

Some 6,000 cases of torture and 114 cases of "violation of honour" were reported to officials through the government survey, conducted by the Department of Statistics. Only 650 have applied for compensation through the Geneva-based United Nations Compensation Commission.

The 650 cases include cases of deaths of family members, officials at the returnee cooperative say.

Feelings of shame, fear and a desire to turn a new leaf are believed to be the main reasons for the low number—10 per cent—of all those who were exposed to bodily harm in the post-war period in Kuwait asking for repatriations.

Depending on the case under Form B of the U.N. Compensation Commission, a person exposed to bodily harm or the death of a close relative can claim from $2,500 to $30,000 in compensation.

According to the Ministry of Labour, which is processing all the reparation claims from Jordanian returnees to the Geneva commission, some $5 million worth of reparation claims have been made by the 650 people. Thus the average claimed is for $7,690.

"The money is really not very significant for one who has permanently lost good health or for a woman who was raped," said 'Awni 'Uways, who spent several months in a Kuwaiti prison and was badly tortured with cigarette burns and steel batons at the end of the Gulf war.

But in some cases money will at least enable those who lost wage- earning relatives to survive before they find work or enable those who need medical attention to pay for it, returnees say.

"One of the biggest problem is health care," Dr. Ghazi said of the problems facing all returnees but those with medical problems in particular. Health care in Kuwait, be pointed out, was for free. Now many returnees who are unemployed must pay high prices for medicines they badly need.

"We are talking about the people who have diabetes, heart problems, kidney diseases or who suffer from cancer," said Dr. Ghazi. These people need the equivalent of the average monthly salary of a Jordanian to cover the cost of their medicines."

Minister Denies Arrest of Pro-Iran Group

JN1403094593 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 13 Mar 93 p 2

[Text] Interior Minister Jawdat al-Subul has denied that the security authorities have arrested a grouping supported by Iran.

Minister al-Subul told SHIHAN that such reports, which are being disseminated and which news agencies and the press are asking about, are groundless.

However, political sources in Jordan have told SHIHAN that the security authorities had arrested an Iranian-backed armed group and that Washington's warning to its nationals of the dangerous situation in Jordan was made against the backdrop of these reports.

Royal Decree Recognizes Slovak, Czech Republics

JN1403135093 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] A Royal Decree has been issued approving the Council of Ministers' decision to recognize the Slovak Republic and appoint the Jordanian ambassador in Vienna as the Kingdom's nonresident ambassador in the Slovak capital, Bratislava. A Royal Decree has also been issued approving the Council of Ministers' decision to recognize the Czech Republic and appoint the Jordanian ambassador in Vienna as the Kingdom's nonresident ambassador in the Czech capital, Prague.

Al-Hariri Discusses Peace, Syrian Withdrawal

NC1303175893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has emphasized that the Lebanese Government will not disarm the resistance men fighting Israel until Israel withdraws from the Lebanese territories it occupies. While stressing the need to implement UN Security Council Resolution 425, al-Hariri pointed out that only a comprehensive peace settlement between Israel and all its Arab neighbors can secure future amicable relations as opposed to the cold peace Israel reached with Egypt, the only state to sign a peace treaty with it.

In an interview with THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER, al-Hariri ruled out the possibility of naturalizing about 250,000 Palestinian refugees living in Lebanon.

He announced that the Lebanese civil war is definitely over but said that the Syrian forces cannot leave Lebanon until a specific period passes and the Lebanese Army and the Internal Security Forces are strong enough to assume their security tasks.

Al-Hariri said: I am sure that I will not fail. I may introduce changes that fall short of people's expectations because they expect too much. It is certain, however, that I will introduce changes.

Al-Hirawi, al-Asad Said To Reexamine Resistance

NC1603084293 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] According to informed political sources, Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad turned an important part of their attention to the situation in the south as they comprehensively discussed the obstacles to the Arab-Israeli negotiations and the forces rejecting the peace process. The sources note that the two presidents were in full agreement that any security gap in Lebanon is now out of tune with the general climate of peace in the region. Such gaps only mean continued rejection of the policies now being pursued by the Arab countries directly involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict to reach a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace.

The sources stress that Lebanon cannot curb resistance activity in the south until Resolution 425 is implemented. However, this idea was only acceptable in the past, before Clinton's administration came along to impose new ideas and inclinations on the concerned parties to advance the peace process toward a final settlement involving certain regional countries before the end of the year. The sources believe that Lebanon, which is required to change the prevailing situation in the south, cannot make a unilateral decision in this regard. Syria must have its say out of the pronouncement that what affects Lebanon affects Syria, and what negatively affects the Lebanese negotiating position also negatively affects the Syrian position.

The sources conclude that the United States rejects the logic of one foot in the field of negotiations and the other in the field of resistance. The options must be decided: Either negotiations leading to peace, or resistance and a return to guns to liberate the land. The Lebanese negotiators, and subsequently the Syrian negotiators, have to determine their new options and inclinations to handle the new pattern of negotiations at the threshold of the ninth round, which will open in Washington on 20 April.

Dallul Stresses Need To Retain Syrian Forces

NC1303071393 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Excerpt] Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul has said that Lebanon still needs Syria's help because it is the only source that can assist the Lebanese Army. He said Lebanon lives and breathes with Syria's support. He added that if the Syrian forces seek to withdraw now, he will propose to the Lebanese Government and people to ask it to remain.

In an interview with the "Talk With an Official" program, Dallul noted that Arab and Western countries that promised to provide aid have not kept these promises.

Responding to a question on statements he made earlier that this will be the last government in which he will participate, Dallul said that his relationship with Prime Minister al-Hariri is very positive. [passage omitted]

Deportees' Spokesman on Resolution 799, Resistance

NC1503175893 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Palestinian deportees spokesman 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi has emphasized that a compromise solution to the deportees issue can only be found through the implementation of Resolution 799, a resolution passed by international legitimacy. Any other solution, he said, would be a compromise between what is wrong and what is right, which is represented by Resolution 799. He said we reject such a compromise.

At a news conference today, he said: The United Nations must pressure Israel into implementing Resolution 799 now that the flagrant double standard of the United Nations and the Security Council in dealing with the Arabs and Israel has become apparent.

He added: The escalation of the resistance and intifadah against occupation has proven that the Zionists' declared goal of deportation and ensuring security for the Israelis has been false and that the real goal is to empty the Palestinian land of its legitimate population. He said he believes that no change is likely in the near future and

that such a change would not take place before the Arab and Islamic nation stands on its feet again.

He said that resisting the occupation is the only solution to the Palestinian people's problem, noting that the number of Palestinians killed in the occupied territories decreased when the Palestinians took up arms. He added that the Palestinian and Islamic resistance have proven that they obtain weapons from the Israeli soldiers themselves.

Al-Rantisi praised Jordanian Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir's position, noting that Abu-Jabir wanted to say [arada an yaqul] that it is impossible for Jordan to continue in the negotiations unless the deportees issue is resolved. He remarked that this is a brave position, one which we have always hoped the Arab countries would adopt.

Birri Urges Concerted Efforts To Liberate South

NC1603072993 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0530 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] On the 15th anniversary of Israel's invasion of the south, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri called for concerted efforts to liberate the land and complete the establishment of a free, independent, and sovereign Lebanon. Israel entered Lebanon when we were divided, so let us drive it out now that we are united, he said.

Birri said Israel has failed to impose certain arrangements on Lebanon and to fashion the Lebanese question to fit its own designs. We foiled the 17 May agreement, which was a result of the invasion, he said, adding: Lebanon now possesses diversified weapons against the continued occupation, notably resistance, which must be accompanied by promotion of civil resistance in the occupied territories. Citizens must reject the authority of the occupier, boycott his civil administration, and rise up against him by hands, stones, and all kinds of weapons, no matter how simple.

Birri said the government's list of priorities needs to be rearranged so that Resolution 425 cannot be bargained over and the land can be liberated. He said it is assumed that in March the workshop of development and reconstruction will be launched together with a workshop to build the steadfastness of the Lebanese political position both internally and externally.

Fadlallah Says Israel Behind New York Blast

NC1503145693 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] His Eminence Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah today ruled out the possibility that Islamic fundamentalists had any role in bombing New York's World Trade Center. He noted that Israel is responsible for it because it wants to prove that it is the only power capable of protecting the Americans from Muslims and to divert world attention from the deportees crisis.

Fadlallah Interviewed on Political Climate

NC1503123593 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 3 Mar 93 p 16

["Exclusive" interview with Lebanese scholar Shaykh Fadlallah by unidentified KEYHAN correspondent; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [KEYHAN] In the wake of internal political developments in Lebanon, how do you view relations among the Lebanese Shiites?

[Fadlallah] Relations among the Shiites are fine. Differences between Hizballah and Amal in their capacity as the two basic pivots of the Shiite political presence have been eliminated. I imagine that the war and hostility between the two has ended and has been replaced by extensive cooperation and coordination. However, some time is needed before all the residual negative sentiments that surfaced due to the conflict can be erased. [passage omitted]

[KEYHAN] On the basis of the talks regarding the release of the Western hostages in Lebanon, it is being said that the German Government had promised that in return for the release of its citizens, it would strive to pave the way for the release of the Hammadi brothers. How far will they go in fulfilling their promise and what happened to the issue of the release of Shaykh 'Ubayd?

[Fadlallah] In fact, the promises on this issue that were given to the Lebanese or to the relevant countries in the region were merely to secure the release of the Western hostages, without the sides concerned gaining any material or political privileges.

Hence, it cannot be believed that the Westerners and others will abide by their promises and do anything for the release of prisoners. They promised to reduce their prison terms. The issue of Shaykh 'Ubayd hinges on Lebanon and Israel. Israel wants the release of an Israeli pilot who had landed in Lebanon in exchange for Shaykh 'Ubayd and it accuses the Islamists of detaining him, even though the Islamists vehemently deny it.

I believe that the issue of Shaykh 'Ubayd will remain mired in this framework until the problem of the Israeli pilot is resolved.

[KEYHAN] Two weeks ago, the Iraqi regime introduced a Shiite cleric as a source of emulation and for the first time it used the term 'Grand Ayatollah' for him. Does this regime have the authority to do so and what will result from such an action?

[Fadlallah] In my opinion, this issue requires no discussion because the declaration of a person as a source of emulation is not something that is done by a government issuing a decree or a circular. A Shiite source of emulation is decided by the trust or confidence of the Shiite community. When a regime such as Iraq—which has mistreated Shiites, closed down the seminary in holy

al-Najaf, which has martyred clerics and ulema, prominent among them Sayyid Muhammad Baqir al-Sadr, and driven Iraqi Muslims from their homes and decimated them—does something like this, it is a farce. The Shiite community believes that every time a theological scholar becomes close to the ruling system, the people distance themselves from him. In view of the respect I have for this eminent cleric, however, I do not believe he will follow the dictates of the Iraqi regime. The institution of the Shiite source of emulation has certain traditions and distinctive characteristics, privileges, and conditions that are not subordinate to any prevailing domination. [passage omitted]

[KEYHAN] After 20 years, parliamentary elections were held in Lebanon and the Islamic forces were successful in gaining seats in the parliament. How do you assess the current political situation in Lebanon?

[Fadlallah] In brief, the political situation in Lebanon is a continuation of the same trend of the former crisis because the situation is linked to the Middle East crisis. It is exactly what the former U.S. President alluded to. Thus, the United States is stonewalling with regard to Lebanon so that in this manner, the United States can keep the Lebanese crisis from being resolved right from the start. You can see that the Lebanese people are moving within a narrow framework so that they can grapple with internal fluctuations and political problems.

One such pivotal and basic problem is the abolition of political sectarianism on the basis of which there is constant and intense confrontation and feuding between Muslims and Christians. This is the reason the same situation continues in Lebanon and circumstances for fundamental changes that can create conditions conducive to the abolition of political sectarianism are not forthcoming.

On the other hand, the United States continues its economic siege of Lebanon and prevents large-scale assistance from the Arab countries in the Persian Gulf and the EC from coming. These are the countries that can help Lebanon. You can easily see that while the Lebanese have put the war behind them, they have not been able to attain actual peace. The south is still under the Zionist enemy occupation; bloodshed continues with intensity in this region. The Islamic Resistance of the people of Lebanon is in an active state of war with the usurpers.

[KEYHAN] The al-Ta'if accord was signed; parliamentary elections were called; and Hizballah entered the Lebanese parliament. Do you consider these events to be the result of collusion between the Lebanese sects and the regional forces or was it a natural step that materialized gradually?

[Fadlallah] The al-Ta'if accord was an agreement signed with the intention of ending the state of war and of projecting the impression to the Lebanese that their destiny would be forged on the basis of this accord. However, a prolonged interval between the signing of the al-Ta'if accord and its implementation is needed so the geographical and political foundations may be laid anew. I think the parliamentary elections can be seen as a qualitative step in the political process; in the past, only a particular group entered parliament. Other groups that wanted to bring about changes in the nation's political composition were not allowed to do so.

Thus, people are saying Lebanon's destiny depends on the new situation in the current political atmosphere. Similarly, some say the relative freedom paved the way for the entry of Islamists into the Lebanese parliament. As I mentioned earlier, their entry into parliament can be seen as a qualitative step in the process of the Islamist struggle in Lebanon.

[KEYHAN] Since the parliamentary elections, we have seen the reduction of the role of the Maronite and Christian sects in Lebanon. Is this due to international developments?

[Fadlallah] The Maronites are believed to have surfaced as a sect, or a political focal point, in the course of the cold war. The sect was used as a lever to pressure leftists and supporters of the former Soviet Union against Arab nationalists and all other opposing political movements. This is why the Maronites were always a source of concern not only in Lebanon but throughout the region.

The Lebanese Maronites incited the Egyptian Copts to rebel, and they provided assistance to the rebels in southern Sudan. They also fanned sectarianism in the Islamic world. Israel used the presence of Maronites against the Islamic and Arab forces opposed to Israel. However, with the emergence of new international developments, including the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the isolation of the Arab leftists, the Maronite role has also reduced. The Arab rulers now seem to have taken over that role and are closer to Israel than to Arabs and Muslims.

The events in the aftermath of the second Persian Gulf war have steered the region in the direction of the United States. All these factors are responsible for minimizing the role of Lebanese Christians in general and Maronites in particular as political instruments of the West. On this basis, I imagine that the Maronites will gradually return to their former natural status.

[KEYHAN] What is the internal position of the Christians now?

[Fadlallah] In general, the Christians have been careless about the political changes and developments. They have been assailed by doubt and error in trying to understand these realities. They acted with confusion and apprehension within the framework of their negative situation. They believed that by initiating a series of political moves they would be able to retrieve their former position and status. However, we see that they have no place in the current political realities of Lebanon. They are irrelevant.

In any case, the Christians, who were once the trump card in the Lebanese and Arab game, are now reduced to worthlessness.

[KEYHAN] International publications are attempting to convey the impression that the entry of Islamists into the Lebanese parliament was to integrate them. To dispel all doubts about this, would you tell us if this were true?

[Fadlallah] I do not believe the entry of the Islamists into parliament was aimed at their mere integration or to halt the trend of the Islamic resistance movement. This was not the result of any sort of barter deal on the basis of which the Islamic resistance would abandon its trenches in the south to gain a position in the parliament. I know some people think that is the case. The issue is not how you are integrated. The question is: Are you ready to surrender yourself to their wishes? In fact, by adopting a balanced political tactic, the Islamists have utilized their position in parliament. They can propound all their slogans and aspirations regarding freedom and justice on the various domestic and foreign levels and simultaneously expand their anti-Zionist operations.

It is worth mentioning that the Islamic resistance's anti-Israeli operations have increased quantitatively and qualitatively following the entry of Hizballah deputies into parliament. Just as the Islamic resistance continues its political campaign within and outside the Lebanese parliament, it also continues its armed jihad on the battlefield in the occupied south. [passage omitted]

[KEYHAN] What differences and similarities do you perceive in the political situation in Lebanon and in other countries of the Arab world, such as Jordan, Algeria, Kuwait, and Afghanistan?

[Fadlallah] [passage omitted] It would be impossible for an Islamic republic to be set up in Lebanon soon due to the presence of various religious sects, the country's relations with international forces, and the political circumstances here.

These factors restrict the Islamist movement in Lebanon to the confines of a strong and pioneering presence on Lebanon's political scene. The Lebanese Islamists can only support Islamist movements in other countries. The spirit of freedom that distinguishes Lebanon from the other countries in the region includes freedom of the press, political freedom, etc. This gives the Islamists in Lebanon the opportunity to continue their political activities freely within the boundaries of the current political realities. They can thereby attain tangible and positive results that benefit Islam.

[KEYHAN] What are the threats facing Lebanon domestically?

[Fadlallah] The current threat against Lebanon comes from the image that the greater powers want to project of Lebanon. This is why Lebanon's future has not been outlined and the plots, plans, and evil wishes of the enemies have not been exposed. In general, the political situation, its general policy lines, and the domestic situation of Lebanon are all subject to foreign forces. For example, Israel's approach on Palestine will affect Lebanon. Syria's actions will also affect Lebanon. The presence of foreign forces, in particular the usurpist Israeli forces in southern Lebanon, also have an impact on Lebanon. What about the Palestinian refugees who have been living in Lebanon for the past decade? These are the issues that have constantly fanned conflicts between Muslims and Christians. The continued residence of the Palestinians in Lebanon has changed the population's composition: The Muslims are now the majority. Thus, there are numerous problems that will continue to cause intense fluctuations in the political situation.

[KEYHAN] What are the foreign threats?

[Fadlallah] Regarding specific foreign threats, the peace accord that might be signed with Israel is one of the main threats not only for Lebanon, but for the entire region. The danger from Israel in times of peace is far greater than in times of war. The circumstances in which this kind of peace reigns will only lull the people into a lackadaisical attitude, which will, in turn, create conditions for discord. This will result in security, economic, and political expansion for Israel, especially because the United States intends to implement a regional security system that includes all the countries, especially Israel.

If this system is implemented, Israel will emerge as an active and decisionmaking regional element. If the U.S.-Israeli plan is implemented, Lebanon will inevitably be drawn into this new framework.

[KEYHAN] A lot of people have expressed satisfaction at Rafiq al-Hariri's assuming power. How do you assess his performance four months into his administration?

[Fadlallah] People have expressed their satisfaction because he has extensive general and international contacts. He has close relations with the Saudi king; he even has a Saudi identity card. This is why people thought al-Hariri had his fingers in the right pies and a full pocket. They thought when he came to power assistance would begin pouring in from the United States, Europe, and the Persian Gulf. [passage omitted]

The government continues to promise that next spring and summer the economic and development projects will come to fruition and the economic problems will be solved. We know that no serious measures have been taken and that the people who believed the government will have a rude awakening once they realize they live in an era in which there is no place for dreams.

Fadlallah Blames U.S. for Troubles in Lebanon

NC1503111893 Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic 13 Mar 93 p 4

[Excerpt] 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah delivered the Friday sermon at al-Imam al-Rida Mosque yesterday [12 March]. He discussed the mujahidin in

Jabal 'Amil [in south Lebanon] and western al-Biqa', blaming the United States for the death and destruction in Lebanon.

Fadlallah asked: Why do they label the mujahidin in Jabal 'Amil and western al-Biqa' terrorist? Did these mujahidin occupy part of Lebanon or was it Israel that carried out the occupation? When you confront the occupation to liberate your country, they call you terrorist. Can we, by the same token, brand the French who confronted the Nazis and the Americans who confronted the British colonialist as terrorists?

Who sent a booby-trapped car to Bi'r al-'Abd [in Beirut's Southern Suburb] on 8 March 1985? True, the tools were Lebanese, but, as revealed by the Americans themselves through the book "Veil" and the memoirs of then Central Intelligence Agency Director William Casey, the Americans agreed with the ambassador of one Gulf state to recruit Lebanese agents and a British bomb expert to perpetrate the massacre and kill those they wanted to get rid of. You know what happened.

They are terrorists. They were the first to violate human rights. Most regimes supported by the United States violate human rights and oppress their peoples. The United States does not support any regime that may bring justice to its people. So it threatens Iran at times, Sudan at others, and all the mujahidin on other occasions. Why? Because they want the world to be liberated and open toward God.

We must remember all this to know the truth of those who preach us into moderation and respect for human rights. Who unleashed the American sedition? It was Kissinger and his designs. All those who discuss Lebanon's crisis admit this. The United States is responsible for everyone killed in Lebanon and for all the destruction in the country. The United States planned Lebanon's sedition. This is stated by everyone who told the history of the Lebanese war. There is now war against Islamists in Egypt. The process of conquering nations may silence peoples some time, but not forever. [passage omitted]

Curbs on Hizballah To Precede More Peace Talks

PM1603110793 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Mar 93 p 6

[Tariq Tarshishi report: "Preliminary Steps To Restrain Hizballah To Precede Resumption of Peace Negotiations"]

[Text] Beirut—Observers in Beirut have linked the New York explosion, the accusations leveled at extremists following the incident, and the features of an official Lebanese move to begin to restrain Hizballah, starting with disarming it.

It is noted that the criticisms against the resistance in southern Lebanon, specifically the "Islamic Resistance" belonging to Hizballah, followed reports about the possibility of the extremists being behind the New York explosion. This campaign was initiated by Chamber of Deputies Chairman Nabih Birri, who said in a speech delivered in the south that "the resistance is not a banner under which to assassinate southern villages and move weapons around at will." The criticisms continued in Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri's statements two days ago, namely that "we will not hesitate to support any move or endeavor that compels Israel to withdraw completely and implement Resolution 425. And we will not promise anyone anything except to use our right to defend our territory and stand by our kinfolk in the south and in western al-Biqa'. Nor will we promise anyone to confiscate any arms used against the occupation and for the legitimate defense of the land. But if fighting the occupation is a legitimate right for a Lebanese person and the Lebanese people as a whole, disrupting security is unacceptable and the state cannot ignore or accept it."

Minister 'Abdallah al-Amin's position is in the same context. He sees "the resistance giving Israel pretexts through those armed actions and armed presence in this village or that town." His view is that "no matter how much it grows, the resistance cannot become a camouflaged element for pursuing political aims inside the country. If the resistance were to become such, it would turn into militias whose presence would have to be eradicated, no matter what it may be or to whom it may belong."

In the light of these positions, the security incident which occurred recently in the southern suburb of Beirut between Amal Movement and Hizballah elements, and the incident which occurred a few days earlier at one of the villages in the Tyre area in the south, appear to have a certain background reflecting the possibility of the beginning a process of restraining Hizballah at the United States' request.

Political circles believe that the suburb incident was fabricated, even though the people handed over to the Army were wanted elements, because arrest warrants for committing murder, robbery, and other crimes had been issued against them. But the Army's intervention and extensive deployment in the suburb represents a test of strength for it and a probe for Hizballah and the extent of its credibility with regard to its commitment to the decision to disband the militias and hand over the weapons to the legitimate authorities. This is in the knowledge that when the Army was deployed in the suburb not a single incident had occurred to disrupt security.

Government sources have linked what happened and what could happen in the suburb with what U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said about implementing Resolution 425 in the south and the need to control the security situation by the legitimate Lebanese forces on all Lebanese territory.

But prominent ministerial circles have not ruled out that the countdown for restraining Hizballah has started

following a U.S. decision to achieve a certain situation on the eve of the next round of negotiations expected to be held in the second half of April. Because it seems that Washington wants to put pressure on Israel to compel it to implement Resolution 425. The circles expect the U.S. Administration to soon begin to resupply the Lebanese Army with weapons and equipment and train Lebanese officers in the United States—which Edward Djerejian, assistant U.S. secretary of state for far eastern and south Asian affairs, hinted at the day before yesterday in his testimony before the Appropriations Committee at the House of Representatives.

Meanwhile, the Lebanese Army is currently preparing to launch large-scale storming campaigns in search of heavy and light weapons which are still in the possession of a number of parties and militias. AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's information says that the security organs have a lot of information about many arms depots belonging to more than one party in mountainous and desolate areas and in al-Biqa' and even in some areas of Beirut. And it was noted recently that the Army discovered several arms depots in Beirut suburbs, al-Matn al-A'la, and al-Matn al-Shimali. And that it confiscated several truckloads of various types of weapons and ammunition.

The storming operations are expected to include the southern suburb of Beirut at a time when Hizballah has begun to display flexibility and respond to official military measures. This is evidenced by the fact that it has handed over to the authorities three wanted men without delay.

Meanwhile, the Army is preparing to deploy in a number of southern villages adjacent to the occupied border area, especially in the center and eastern sectors of the south, as these villages are still under the Islamic resistance's control and their areas continue to witness confrontations between the resistance and the Israeli occupation forces.

Ministerial sources expect these steps to take place before the next round of negotiations begin within the framework of the Middle East peace conference.

Authorities Said To Plan To 'Disarm' Hizballah

PM1203122493 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Mar 93 p1

[Unattributed report: "Lebanese Authorities Have Prepared a Plan To Bring Down Hizballah's Little States"]

[Excerpt] Beirut, Paris, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—According to informed sources in Beirut, the recent measures taken by the Lebanese Army in Beirut's southern suburb were only "the first step in a plan to bring down Hizballah's little states and to disarm it." They added that the implementation of the plan would be gradual and carried out in the light of progress in the peace negotiations, and that some measures would be taken before the next round. The sources say that Damascus understands Lebanon's need to restrain Hizballah to strenthen the position of the Lebanese negotiators and win Washington's support for its stance. They confirmed that the Lebanese Army was preparing to mount a series of operations with the intention of storming arms caches in the southern suburb and western al-Biqa' which might be followed by an expansion of army deployment in areas under Hizballah's control in western al-Biqa' and in the south.

In Paris, Western diplomatic sources say that the current year will be decisive as far as the situation in Lebanon and the country's future are concerned. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Aide on al-Shiyah Incident

PM1503155793 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 12 Mar 93 p 2

[Report on interview with Hizballah Political Bureau head al-Haj Husayn al-Khalil by Muhammad Shuqayr in Beirut; date not given]

[Text] Hizballah Political Bureau head al-Haj Husayn al-Khalil has said that "there are people who want to exploit the individual incident" which occurred in the southern suburb at the end of last week "to send a message to others at our expense. Although we always understand their need to send such messages to the West, we do not accept that this be done at our expense."

In an interview with AL-HAYAH he said that the party "was surprised by the media exaggeration generated by those who tried to make a big issue out of the suburb problem. Whereas they were in no hurry to make an issue out of the incident which occurred in Tripoli, where a group of people—the size of a militia—attacked a judicial police station to free a wanted convict."

He asked about the reasons behind the intention not to make an issue out of the Tripoli incident, "although it is much more grave than the individual incident which occurred in one of the quarters of the southern suburb. Especially as the northern incident was carefully planned, whereas the accidental incident in the suburb was not."

He said: "If the aim is to create an atmosphere to give the Lebanese Army a certain role in this area, we do not believe that they need to exaggerate and exploit the incident, as we have said in the past that it is out of the question that we would create problems with the Army."

Al-Haj al-Khalil emphasized that "Hizballah's first and last concern is to concentrate on fighting the Israeli occupation which is still weighing heavily on our territory in the south." On "media exaggeration" he said that "several people or certain quarters had been waiting for an individual incident like the one which happened in the southern suburb in order to promote that (media) campaign and make various interpretations of the incident—interpretations which we could do without right now."

He pointed out that the "Lebanese Army is present in the suburb, and we did not oppose its entry, nor are we opposed to its deployment. When some army units were withdrawn from the suburb the reason was to deploy them in the Sidon area. When it was decided to return the Army to the suburb, we were the first to tell Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul that the Army was free to move into and out of the suburb as it wishes. And everyone knows that we facilitated its entry and set no conditions, except that we reached an understanding with it on providing protection for the homes of some Hizballah leaders. But if they see the protection we are providing for the homes of these people as representing security islands, I believe there is exaggeration here, especially as everyone knows and is aware of the delicateness and seriousness of the situation and the fact that we were forced to protect our homes in view of the threats made in the past and still being made by the Zionist enemy. With regard to the problem which occurred in the suburb, we did not hesitate to ask the Army Command and the brothers in the command of the fraternal Syrian forces that the Army play its role. And we expressed every willingness to hand over any troublemaker. And I do not believe that Hizballah evaded handing over anyone the Army wanted." He went on: "It is out of the question that we would create a problem with anyone. But we regret the Army Command's position, which contributed to inflating the problem and giving the impression that there are people who want to create problems for the Army in the suburb."

Al-Haj al-Khalil pointed out that "the party had hoped that the Army would play its role in maintaining security and identify the troublemakers who created the problem, without accompanying this intervention by political comments about which the least that can be said is that they do not inspire reassurance." And he wished that some leaders and figures "had adopted the position or role played by Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, whose position was a balanced one, indeed much more lenient than that adopted by others; it did not reflect a severe tone."

Referring to "some of the figures and leaders who rushed to inflate the problem," he asked about the nature of Hizballah's dealing with the problem and how he informed some of the people concerned of his complete willingness to respond. He said: "We told them, if we are unable to hand over one wanted man or another today, we will work to hand him over tomorrow. That is what happened. Even when we received a list of the names from the Army Command, we did not hesitate to hand over those termed troublemakers. And I mean what I say. And we will leave the security leaders present on the ground—Lebanese or Syrian—to state their opinion in this connection. But for some of them to rush to exploit the al-Shiyah incident and hasten to send a message to those inside and outside the country at our expense, their conduct prompts us to suspect that the authorities were behind the unexpected incident which occurred."

He added: "Although we avoid leveling such an accusation at the authorities, we ask about the benefit of exaggerating the incident, which was designed to send a message to the West or others. And we remain entitled to ask the authorities about the reasons which prompted them to exploit the incident. There are scores of daily incidents which occur from time to time in areas other than the suburb, but heaven and earth have not been moved as is happening now in our areas. Have we not on several occasions hastened to assist the security services in arresting wanted men? Do we not make contact with them and guide them to the dens in which those who commit vice seek shelter? When the issue of reinforcing the the Army's presence in the suburb was discussed with us in the past we told the Syrians and Minister Dallul personally that we had not been consulted when it was decided to withdraw the Army to Sidon. Because it is a matter for the political authorities to decide. The Army enters and moves out whenever it wants. So why is the subject of the Army's entry into the suburb always raised as though it indicates the existence of a chronic problem with Hizballah, despite our assertion that the Army can enter and move out whenever it wants?"

He went on: "And I do not see here any reason to talk again about the existence of security islands in the suburb. Everyone knows the scale of the fears which prompt us to take some measures as a precaution in the face of Israeli threats. Incidentally, I tell those who always talk about the existence of security islands to compare the security situation in the suburb with the security situation in other areas, especially as we do not object to any measure designed to maintain security, including running patrols and setting up checkpoints. We openly say that Hizballah supports any role for the Army, provided our security conditions which are beyond our power and subject to continued threats by the Zionist enemy are taken account of."

He announced that "there are no security islands in the sense that certain places in the suburb are independent. That is unless they believe that we as people have become security islands."

He believes that the Syrian forces' command "played a role in returning the unexpected problem to its normal dimension, as they were surprised by its exaggeration." He revealed that Syria was surprised by the exaggeration of what has happened in the suburb. And that a delegation from Hizballah visited Damascus one day before the incident and met with senior Syrian officials, who said nothing to inspire the belief that they were about to take certain measures.

Al-Haj al-Khalil concluded his interview by saying: "There are no forbidden areas for the Army in the suburb. Nor do I believe it is thinkable that we would set up security islands. Unless they believe that our homes have become security islands. In my view, what happened does not warrant all that clamor. Although we understand some people's need to send messages from

time to time and it is not our business, we urged that they stop sending these messages at our expense."

Objectives Behind Christopher Visit Viewed

NC1203141093 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 26 Feb 93 p 3

[Article by Wahid Suwayd: "Media Exaggerate Unsuccessful Visit to Lebanon. Why Did Christopher Come? What Did He Do?"]

[Text] At long last, the dream of Lebanese officials came true: U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher landed in Lebanon and Lebanese officials enjoyed meeting him for an hour. They made him listen. And their words did not fall on deaf ears. After all, he came "only to listen."

But everything that was in store for Christopher evaporated during the visit. Lebanese demands, as well as American promises, vanished into thin air.

What happened at the Lebanese-American talks? Why was it said at first that Christopher would not visit Lebanon? Suddenly, he came to the country, specifically to al-Yarzah [Defense Ministry].

The answers to all these questions are found in the following information, which AL-'AHD obtained from sources at the Foreign Ministry.

Commenting on U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region, particularly to Lebanon, a Lebanese diplomatic source says that those who believe Christopher's claim that he came "only to listen" are mistaken.

The source says the demagogic American performance has always led us to believe that Washington says one thing and does another. The new U.S. secretary did not really need to listen. The large dossier he carried during his talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad—a dossier he received from his predecessor James Baker—was clearly noticeable. Christopher did not need to gather additional information or know more about the views of the concerned parties in the region. But he certainly wanted to inform these parties of old and new American positions.

After this introduction, the Lebanese diplomatic source discusses Christopher's visit to Lebanon, contending that it was scheduled and prepared, just like all Christopher's visits to the region's countries.

Why, then, all the confusion about whether the visit would take place?

The same source says the reasons are American, the tools Lebanese. They are:

First, to lend a unique nature to and put a halo around the visit to a country like Lebanon.

Second, there are the security reasons, about which the U.S. Administration is extremely conscious. Washington has banned Americans from visiting Lebanon since the bombing of the Marines headquarters in 1983.

What, then, are the objectives of the visit?

The same diplomatic source answers: There are American and Lebanese objectives. The American objectives can be summed up in the following:

First, to renew pressure on Lebanon to soften its position on the deportees, agree to their gradual and phased return, and disengage the Lebanese and Syrian positions on the issue in preparation for the next round of peace talks.

Second, to remind all concerned parties, especially Syria, that the American version of al-Ta'if is alive and is the master of all solutions, particularly concerning the redeployment of Syrian forces and the dissolution and disarmament of militias and the resistance.

Third, to emphasize America's support for the role of the Army and specifically al-Yarzah, in which the American secretary chose to land for talks, avoiding, for example, Zahlah [controlled by Syrian forces] or al-Ramlah al-Bayda' [temporary presidential palace].

The Lebanese dreams were very different. Foremost among them were:

1. Resolution 425. Lebanon still gambles on its implementation, ignoring that its participation in the negotiations has negated the need to implement this resolution and stripped it of its content.

2. Economic aid. Lebanon has not obtained any of the promised aid but it knows the green light for this aid will come only on a U.S. signal.

3. U.S. recognition of Lebanon as a state and of the legitimacy of the state's regime. This was evident from the Lebanese request to the American guest to allow U.S. citizens to come to Lebanon and to permit Lebanese planes to fly to the United States.

What have the two sides achieved?

The Lebanese diplomatic source answers the question by saying that the U.S. secretary of state began his talks with the Lebanese delegation by inferring that his visit to Damascus was enough to learn everything and that, possibly, he did not need to visit Lebanon. President al-Hirawi was dismayed by these words and said that Lebanon is a free, sovereign, and independent state.

But the U.S. secretary of state faced President al-Hirawi and said: We hope you will implement "al-Ta'if" [accord] in full, because it has not been implemented as it should. Let the Syrians withdraw to al-Biqa' as the accord stipulates.

When the Lebanese side demanded the implementation of Resolution 425 calling for "Israel's" withdrawal from the occupied south, Christopher evaded the issue claiming that the resolution is an international affair

while al-Ta'if is an internal one, which, if not implemented in full, might see war return to Lebanon because it did not end completely with al-Ta'if accord. There is also the issue of disbanding the militias; it was not completed.

The source adds that the U.S. secretary of state avoided talking about the foreign issues facing Lebanon by referring to internal affairs. Asked about the fate of aid, he said: This too is an international decision, but when Syria withdraws and you resume the negotiations, then everything will be solved naturally.

Where has the visit led?

Nowhere, replies the diplomatic source. The visit was exaggerated and got more attention than it deserved. The Lebanese side, which fell victim to this trap, is largely responsible for this.

The source adds that official Lebanon heard a new U.S. lecture to the effect that Lebanon is not the priority on the list of U.S. interests that Lebanese officials think. Al-Yarzah visit, however, differed somewhat from the visit to Zahlah [by former U.S. Secretary of States James Baker in 1992]. Christopher came to effect the demise of the deportees issue, to bury Resolution 425, to raise the issue of the Syrians' withdrawal, and to activate the Christians' position. Lebanon wanted to ask for support for diplomatic liberation [tahrir diplomasi] and for aid for reconstruction and development. The U.S. secretary of state returned as he came, while Lebanon returned empty-handed. But the media depicted the visit as successful, as if Lebanon was content to see the face of the U.S. official but had its fingers in its ears so as not to hear the real, but known, U.S. stance.

Nasrallah, Amal Leaders Meet, Discuss Issues

NC1403081593 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General al-Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah has said that the relationship between the Amal Movement and Hizballah is as good as it can be in terms of cooperation, coordination, and understanding. His Eminence al-Sayyid Nasrallah made this statement after a meeting last night that grouped a number of leading Hizballah and Amal figures following a fast-breaking banquet hosted by Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri at his home in Barbur. Nasrallah added that during the meeting emphasis was placed on the resistance as the only option for liberation; ways to strengthen this option; and ways to cooperate and coordinate to fight the Zionist enemy, whether through operations carried out as part of the sides' duty toward liberation or within the framework of the joint operations room.

Al-Sayyid Nasrallah added: We also discussed domestic issues at the political, social, and economic levels. We also had an in-depth discussion on the minor, individual, incidents that took place recently.

Lebanese Forces To Hand Over Small Arms

NC1303140993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] In a step intended to consolidate the security process, a responsible source in the Lebanese Forces has said: The Lebanese Forces would like to express satisfaction with the steps taken by the authorities in the past few months, particularly in the past few days in Beirut and the suburbs. These measures assert the Lebanese Government's determination to consolidate security and stability and protect all citizens without exception.

The Lebanese Forces seek to contribute to and back these security steps, and thereby declare that they will hand over their remaining small-caliber weapons to the Lebanese Army. The Lebanese Forces hope that the other parties will follow suit so that no group in Lebanon other than the Lebanese Army possesses weapons.

Resistance Attacks Israeli Position in South

NC1403073493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] The National Resistance Front claims that one of its groups attacked an Israeli position on the Hula crossing point yesterday with machine guns and rockets. The assailants reportedly hit an Israeli machine-gun post, injured an Israeli soldier, and returned safely to base.

Army Seizes Weapons; Israel Attacks Areas in South

NC1403174093 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] A Lebanese Army unit stormed a number of homes in the al-Buwayr township in the south after a rocket shell was fired at the Middle East gas station, owned by As'ad Qansaw. The unit arrested Ahmad Hasan Qansaw and Husayn As'ad Qansaw and confiscated five different weapons, including RPG's, Kalashnikovs, and Magnums, as well as a large amount of ammunition and hand grenades.

At 0900 today, Israeli troops stationed on Zummarayya and 'Ayn Qinya hills opened large-caliber artillery fire at the al-Dahr hills, al-Jabal al-Awsat, and 'Ayn Qinya vines for half an hour. The Israeli troops stationed on Kawkaba hills fired medium-caliber machine-gun and mortar fire at the al-Litani River basin. Material damage has been reported. Israeli helicopters flew over Marj 'Uyun and al-'Urqub.

Areas in South, Hizballah Positions Shelled

NC1503074193 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] According to our correspondent in the south, the township of 'Arab Salim has been coming under shell fire since 0645 from Israeli positions in al-Zaffat, Jabal

al-Rayhan, and al-Wadi al-Akhdar. Several shells landed on Hizballah positions in Mlita.

Resistance Reportedly Kills 2 Israeli Soldiers

NC1503181393 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Resistance operations against the occupation continue in the south. It was learned today that Lebanese National Resistance Front men carried out two separate operations, killing two occupation forces soldiers.

In a statement this afternoon, the front said one of its units attacked with machine guns an occupation forces patrol in Saydun, killing one of the patrol members, and that a clash ensued.

Another group detonated an explosive charge as an Israeli patrol passed by in Anan, killing one of the troops and wounding the others.

Israeli Shelling, Overflights Reported

NC1603101293 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] The hills of Luwayzah in Iqlim al-Tuffah came under artillery fire from the Israeli positions in al-Zaffatah this morning. Israeli warplanes are continuing to fly the airspace of the region after conducting mock raids over Iqlim al-Tuffah, al-Nabatiyah, and the Palestinian camps in Sidon.

Rabin's Offer To Withdraw From Golan Cited

JN1603070893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton has said there is a real chance to resume Middle East peace talks. He added that there are many reasons which make us hope for this.

At a joint news conference with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, following a three and half hour meeting last night, Clinton said that Rabin assured him that he was ready to help bring peace to the Middle East. Clinton pointed out, however, that there are difficulties facing the peace process, but he hoped these would not obstruct the resumption of talks.

Asked about prospects for resuming negotiations if Israel does not accept a Palestinian demand to return the deportees, Clinton said: I believe that we have a real opportunity to resume the talks, and I hope this will happen. He added that the question of Palestinian deportees was not raised during his talks with Rabin.

Clinton noted that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher did a good job during his Middle East tour. He also called for improving U.S.-Israeli relations, promising Israel to maintain its military superiority over the Arabs. He also announced the creation of a U.S.-Israeli technology committee to promote science and technology as the 21st century draws nearer.

For his part, Rabin said at the joint news conference that he was ready for what he called a risk for peace. He proposed withdrawing from the occupied Syrian Golan Heights as part of a peace agreement with Syria. He did not, however, specify the extent of this withdrawal.

Rabin expressed appreciation for a decision to maintain the present level of U.S. aid to Israel, adding: This decision will help us absorb new immigrants in Israel and bear the heavy burden of what he called Israel's security.

Media Comment on Israeli Policy, Peace Talks

Rabin's U.S. Visit Assessed

JN1303092393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Press review]

[Text] In its editorial, the newspaper TISHRIN comments on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's visit to Washington. It says: Israel does not want the United States to play an effective and active role in accelerating the peace talks. Neither does it want America to be a full partner that can interfere directly to redress the course of settlement and steer it in a way that will serve a just and comprehensive peace. Moreover, Israel's rulers do not want America to play the role of an objective, honest, and unbiased broker.

TISHRIN explains this and says: The U.S. role in such case neither serves its plans, keeps it away from questioning, nor obligates it to peace and its requirements. As a result of this, the peace talks will continue in a vicious circle, something which Israel is working for in order not to find itself compelled to respond to the will of the international community and to accept a true and serious implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions on the Middle East crisis and a forced withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

After reviewing Israel's repressive and brutal measures in the occupied Arab territories, it stresses that these practices are tantamount to mines on the road to a just and comprehensive peace, and that the Rabin government does not want America to interfere in the interest of peace, regardless of the form of this interference.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Syria has always wagered on a unified Arab position to restore the usurped rights and regain our occupied territories. Syria has only responded to peace efforts out of its great concern about a full implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy. Through its basic pan-Arab principles and its commitment to the bases of a just and comprehensive peace, Syria expressed a genuine and sincere desire to render the peace process a success and a determination to remove all obstacles to the peace talks, foremost of which are the traps set by Israel against peace and the region's security and stability.

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH also comments on Rabin's visit to Washington, writing: Rabin is carrying, in hands that are stained with the blood of the citizens of the occupied Arab territories and southern Lebanon, a quiver full of demands and files which are mainly military in order to enable Israel to go ahead with its occupation of Arab territories and implement its expansionist plan.

AL-THAWRAH notes: Although Rabin did not disclose all his blackmailing demands, what has been announced about this shows his government's adherence to the previous Israeli governments' expansionist policies. There is the security file on strategic cooperation between Israel and Washington, one on the exchange of intelligence information, and another on maintaining its qualitative edge, in addition to Israel's demands for stockpiling U.S. arms in Israel, preparing Haifa port, continuing to develop the Arrow missile system, and maintaining the amount of military aid.

AL-THAWRAH adds: There are several other demands that are provocative to the Arabs and opposed to the laws of international legitimacy. These demands give the impression that the Israeli prime minister is preparing for a new aggression against the Arabs when he returns from Washington.

AL-THAWRAH says: Submitting these facts about Rabin to the U.S. Administration is necessary, especially since Washington is the one that presented the peace

initiative, the cosponsor of the peace process, and the one that advocates the implementation of international legitimacy in the region.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Since it has inaugurated its first foreign mission in the Middle East through Christopher's tour, the Clinton administration, in order to reaffirm U.S. credibility, should dispel hostility toward the Arabs which Israel seeks to create and continue. This is because the United States has no interest in antagonizing the Arabs.

No 'Worthwhile' Israeli Offer

JN1203162693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Arab contacts are in full swing to find a solution to the question of Palestinian deportees. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has asserted, after relaying a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to President Husni Mubarak, that Syria and Egypt see eye to eye on the need to come up with a solution to return all the Palestinian deportees as soon as possible. Al-Shar' added that there are joint Syrian-Egyptian ideas which will be discussed with the United States and the Palestinians. Damascus is also expected to witness intense political activity following the blessed 'Id al-Fitr holiday. The foreign ministers of the Arab states concerned with the peace process will meet to discuss U.S. invitations to resume peace talks in Washington on 20 April.

Since the Arabs started these talks more than a year ago following a U.S. and Russian commitment to bring about a comprehensive, just settlement based on Security Council resolutions and the land-for-peace principle, it is important for the Arabs to proceed with the talks until the very end. This is particularly important, especially since the new U.S. Administration has also declared its commitment to the bases of the Madrid conference and Resolutions 242 and 338, as well as to the previous administration's guarantees. The new U.S. Administration has also pledged to play the role of a full and active partner during the ninth round.

It is equally important, however, to find a solution to the question of the deportees, stemming from Security Council Resolution 799. Israel's response to this resolution is a test of its peaceful intentions. Also, U.S. pressure to secure its implementation is a test of the role of a full and active partner. A full partner is supposed to be honest and give precedence to the interest of peace and to the principles of justice, right, and international law over Israel's policies, which are hostile to all these values. A full partner is also expected to put an end to Israel's practices which constitute a serious violation of human rights and international charters and promote the law of the jungle, which has caused untold suffering to humanity.

World politicians, observers, and analysts are unanimous in their belief that deporting hundreds of Palestinians in such an unjust and provocative manner aims at undermining the peace process. Moreover, stepping up repression in the occupied Arab territories and the Rabin government's adoption of new brutal methods—such as the mass killing of children and young men, the destruciton of homes and neighborhoods with rockets, and the imposiition of an all-out siege on cities and villages—also aim at creating an explosive situation rendering any resumption of peace talks a useless activity.

The Israeli prime minister has reneged on most of his pledges after he secured U.S. loan guarantees and did not propose anything new during the seventh and eighth rounds. He is also not likely to present anything new in the ninth round.

Yitzhaq Rabin, who has begun a 10-day visit to the United States, is, in reality, looking forward to reviving the strategic U.S.-Israeli alliance to enable Tel Aviv to get additional U.S. funds and weapons for free, regardless of the peace talks and whether Israel is serious or not about establishing peace in the Middle East. The best evidence of this is that despite all his previous pledges, Rabin did not propose to the Palestinians any serious ideas to resolve their problem. He, instead, stepped up violence in the Gaza Strip and West Bank to new, unprecedented levels. Rabin has also so far not proposed any plan for withdrawing his forces from the southern occupied zone of Lebanon in accordance with Security Council Resolution 425. He deemed Lebanese resistance a threat to peace, while the Israeli occupation, as he claims, does not pose any threat to anybody. This is in spite of the fact that Israeli attacks, starting with the occupied zone, have not stopped for a single day, and are launched against the Lebanese, their homes, and fields, forcing thousands of residents to flee.

Rabin has also made no worthwhile offers to Syria. Syria is still awaiting Israel's reply to the proposals it made during the seventh round. Yes, Rabin has hinted that it is possible to withdraw partially from the Golan. Syria, however, adheres to its belief in a comprehensive withdrawal from the entire Golan Heights. Rabin's offer is no more than a maneuver to fragment the ranks of Arab negotiators. The Arab problem is one; the conflict is one; and rights must cover all fronts of this conflict.

Syria has repeatedly said that it is concerned with Jerusalem, the West Bank, Gaza, and south Lebanon, in the same way it is concerned with the Golan, and that there will be no bargaining over one inch of territory, nor will there be any relinquishment of any national or pan-Arab right. Peace in the Middle East will not be viable unless it is comprehensive and just. This simply means Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territory and acknowledging the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland.

Syria, along with all Arabs who responded sincerely and responsibly to international peace efforts, expect the two

cosponsors of the talks to play the role of a full, active partner, a partner who gives precedence to the principles of justice, right, and peace over injustice, tyranny, and oppression. They also expect Israel to give a sign that it will respond to the will of peace by returning the Palestinian deportees, implementing Security Council Resolution 799, and stopping the policy of blind oppression in the occupied Arab territories.

Doubt About Israel's Commitment to Peace

JN1303170593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Arab and international efforts are seeking to remove obstacles placed by Israel before the Middle East peace process, at the head of which is the obstacle of Palestinian deportees. Meanwhile, Yitzhaq Rabin arrived in Washington and announced that he will receive an explanation from the U.S. Administration about what it meant by its pledge to act as a full partner in the peace talks. He said: The situation will be very bad if the United States intervenes early in the ninth round of talks.

During his long visit, Yitzhaq Rabin surely intends to mobilize the Zionist lobby in the United States to dissuade the U.S. Administration from adopting positive initiatives in the interest of promoting the peace process. He does not want the U.S. Administration to play the role of a full and effective partner because this will require that United States demand implementation of Security Council resolutions and respect for international charters and accords.

The entire world unanimously agrees that peace cannot be achieved in the Middle East without practically implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy and lifting the grip of oppression and torture from the Palestinian people, thus allowing them to exercise their normal rights, at the head of which is their right to self-determination.

When the U.S. Administration announces its commitment to the principles of the Madrid conference, Resolutions 242 and 338, and the land-for-peace principle, and when it also announces its adherence to the assurances presented by the former administration to Arab parties, this will simply mean its commitment to achieving a just and comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Herein lie Rabin's concerns and fears that the United States will play the role of a full partner. Hence, he is seeking to paralyze the effectiveness of the U.S. Administration so that it would remain a silent partner in a way that would allow Israel to abort the ninth round of talks, in case it is convened, just as it previously aborted the past seventh and eighth rounds and avoided the requirements of the peace process. It is clear that Rabin does not want to exchange land for peace. Otherwise, he would surely have welcomed the U.S. role as a full partner and would have responded to international efforts to return the Palestinian deportees to their homes.

During his talks in London, the Israeli deputy foreign minister refused to pledge that Israel would completely stop its policy of deporting Palestinians from their homes or would go back on its stand toward the Palestinians deported to occupied southern Lebanon. In light of these circumstances and the siege imposed on the Gaza Strip, as well as other occupied Arab territories where acts of killing and terrorism are escalating, doubts are increasing about Israel's intentions toward peace. Rabin's claims concerning his willingness to withdraw forces from the occupied Golan, to what he terms secure borders, aggravates these doubts. The secure borders he talks about would mean cutting out part of the Golan.

Syria repeatedly explained that it will not relinquish a single inch of the Golan and will not bargain on any of the national and pan-Arab rights, emphasizing that there is no compromise solution. Syria wants a comprehensive Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories. Either a just, comprehensive, and honorable peace or no peace at all.

Hence, the dimensions and true objectives of Rabin's visit to the United States are clear. Israel's prime minister does not at all intend to present a proposal to activate the peace process and remove the mines along the path of a settlement. He seeks to circumvent the U.S. role, revive the strategic alliance, and abort the ninth round of talks even before it begins.

Hence, the meeting of Arab foreign ministers concerned with the peace talks, scheduled to be held in Damascus on 28 March, acquires maximum importance. The Arab ministers will crystallize a unified stand on the U.S.-Russian invitation in light of solving the deportee issue, developments in the international position, and signs that the United States is committed to its pledge to play the role of a full and effective partner in achieving a just and comprehensive settlement, contrary to what Israel seeks to achieve in terms of partial solutions and separate deals that contradict the essence and objectives of the peace process.

Press on Prospects for Talks

JN1403103193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Press review]

[Text] The newspaper TISHRIN comments on Syrian-Lebanese coordination, which is being enhanced day after day, because the two countries believe that they have a common destiny and a common future, saying: It is only natural for Presidents al-Asad and al-Hirawi to meet from time to time, particularly when sensitive issues that have repercussions on the overall situation in the Middle East have to be discussed.

TISHRIN notes Syria's support for the position of fraternal Lebanon toward the deportees' issue, saying that Syria aided its principled position in this regard—something which put the Rabin government in a real impasse at a time when it was attempting to make Lebanon bear responsibility for the deportees. The Lebanese position in this regard, the paper adds, has played a tremendous role in putting the Palestine question and Israel's repression in the occupied Arab territories under the spotlight. Besides, this Lebanese position has confronted the international community with its responsibilities with regard to the implementation of Security Council Resolution 799. This position has also helped Lebanon regain its distinctive international standing.

The paper goes on to say: Despite Israel's attempts to pressure Lebanon by making threats and launching attacks, the Lebanese Government has maintained its position, which enjoys the support of both the Arabs and the international community.

TISHRIN reviews the talks held by Presidents al-Asad and al-Hirawi, which addressed the peace process, the resumption of the Washington talks in light of the U.S. pledge to play the role of a full and effective partner in the talks, the deportee issue, and the means to remove the mines planted by Israel in the way of the peace process. TISHRIN says: The two fraternal countries believe that there can be no regional solution unless Israel complies with the relevant Security Council resolutions.

Concluding its commentary, TISHRIN says: It is also natural for the two presidents to discuss the moves made by the Lebanese Government to enhance the march of national reconciliation and the standing of the legitimate government, and to entrench security and stability in the fraternal country. Syria has repeatedly declared its support for this country to help it recover politically, economically, and socially. Additionally, Syria has put all its weight behind the efforts to regain Lebanese sovereignty over southern Lebanon. Undoubtedly, Syrian-Lebanese ties have become an example for inter-Arab ties.

For its part, the newspaper AL-BA'TH editorializes on the intense contacts and consultations currently under way on the resumption of the peace talks and the removal of the obstacles, foremost among which is the deportees' issue, which Israel has consistently refused to resolve in implementation of UN Resolution 799, which provides for the immediate repatriation of the deportees.

AL-BA'TH adds: The failure to resolve the deportees' issue will directly influence the course of the peace talks, which are scheduled to be resumed, as announced by Washington and Moscow, cosponsors of the peace process. It is proper to recall that the U.S. Administration can resolve this issue as well as many other obstacles. This is because the U.S. Administration is supposed to play its role as a full partner by making Israel implement Resolution 799 and declare a commitment to implement the other relevant resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338. This is extremely important for the success of the peace process.

AL-BA'TH goes on to say: If the obstacles placed by Israel in the way of peace talks are not removed, the results of the upcoming talks will not be better than those produced by previous rounds of talks.

Concluding its editorial, AL-BA'TH says: The continuation of meetings among Arab parties to attain the desired coordination will thwart all Israeli endeavors to breach the Arab position. The meeting held between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Ilyas al-Hirawi, which addressed the peace process, the deportees' issue, the situation in Lebanon, and bilateral ties, is part of the ongoing process of consultations. The desired end result of such consultations is to reach a unified Arab position vis-a-vis the issues under consideration.

AL-THAWRAH newspaper, in an editorial published today, wonders why the mere return to the negotiating table would make us view with any degree of optimism the possible attainment of positive progress in the peace process, progress that could provide the Middle East region with security and stability. The paper adds: While posing this question at this early stage, we are well aware that Israel has placed additional obstacles in the way of the peace process. The most recent obstacles created by Israel were the deportations and stepped up savage repression, not to mention its previous stands, which aimed to render the peace process void of any meaningful content. Israel has been dragging its feet in the hope of pushing the Arabs to abandon the peace process so that it can hold them responsible. We are posing this question early on because we are well aware of Israel's ability to dilute the next round of negotiations and flood it with marginal issues and ideas that contravene the terms of reference of the peace process. Moreover, Israel could also focus on one track of negotiations to the exclusion of the other tracks to confuse the entire peace process.

AL-THAWRAH goes on to say: In brief, the international community, headed by the United States, which launched a Middle East peace initiative, is called on to identify the ways and means of implementing UN resolutions, which constitute the backbone of the peace process. Also, the Arab sides must effect thorough and impeccable coordination among themselves so that any Israeli maneuver to bring the Arabs down and sow dissension within Arab ranks may be thwarted.

Concluding its editorial, AL-THAWRAH says: Extending invitations for the resumption of talks is insufficient. Indeed, if the process is to succeed, the Israeli obstacles standing in the way of peace efforts must be removed. Furthermore, stringent rules must be set up and enforced to ensure that the peace process remains on the right track.

Coordination With Lebanon Hailed

JN1403162393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Within the framework of the brotherhood and cooperation treaty between the two fraternal countries of Syria and Lebanon, Damascus yesterday witnessed intensified consultations between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Ilyas al-Hirawi that dealt with the issues of Middle East peace and the U.S.-Russian invitation to resume the bilateral talks in Washington on 20 April. These intensified consultations are aimed at crystalizing a unified stand that maintains the higher Arab interests and sets the foundation for a solid and effective Arab stand based on the constants of the peace process and confronting the international community with its responsibilities toward Israel's practices against human rights, its serious violations of the Geneva Conventions, and its continued defiance of Security Council resolutions, the most recent of which is Resolution 799 which stipulates the immediate return of Palestinian deportees to their homes and the guarantee of their safety.

Syria strongly supported Lebanon's courageous stand when it confronted Rabin's criminal scheme and refused to take the deportees into its territories in order to expose the dreadful Israeli crime represented by uprooting hundreds of Palestinian citizens from their homes and exiling them to the barren area of occupied southern Lebanon. Lebanon's stand was decisive in aborting Rabin's scheme, exposing Israel's attacks and peace claims, and leading the Security Council to make its decision to hold the Tel Aviv rulers responsible for the harm inflicted on the deportees. The entire world recorded Lebanon's honorable stand and placed Israel in the dock. The unjust act of deportation contradicts peace and is nothing more than a mine to destroy international efforts and to return the region to the whirlpool of wars and explosions. Meanwhile, the rulers of Tel Aviv continue the policy of torture, killing, and destruction on a daily basis. They destroy entire neighborhoods in the occupied Arab territories, kill children, women, and elderly people, and exercise the "scorched earth" policy in southern Lebanon.

There are no signs of a change in the Israeli policy toward peace. Rabin said nothing to indicate that he is willing to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories. In every occasion, he plays the tune of secure borders. These secure borders are an invention created by Israel to cover its expansionist schemes in the occupied territories. Indeed, Rabin rushed to Washington to contain the new U.S. Administration's pledge to play the role of a full and effective partner. The Arabs see the role of a full and effective partner as a commitment to implementing international legitimacy resolutions. The partner is supposed to be honest and the bases of being honest are to champion rights, justice, as well as UN laws, principles, and resolutions.

Syria repeatedly announced that not a single inch of the Golan and the occupied Arab territories will be relinquished and that no national and pan-Arab rights will be bargained over. Moreover, Lebanon strongly adhered to the return of its occupied southern part and refused to discuss any peace agreement before a comprehensive Israeli withdrawal from its territory. Despite all that, Israeli circles are talking about separate solutions and partial deals to divide the Arab ranks. This is why the Syrian-Lebanese summit meeting and the resulting unified stand acquire importance. This is especially so since the foreign ministers of the Arab states concerned with the peace process will meet in Damascus on 28 and 29 March to discuss and assess all developments and to adopt a cohesive and pressing Arab stand toward implementing Resolution 799, returning the Palestinian deportees, and placing the United States, Russia, and the United Nations before their responsibilities. Peace received continuous blows from Israel and peace opportunities retreated and may continue to retreat unless international pledges are implemented and Israel is committed to complying with UN resolutions and charters.

The fruits of the continuously reinforced Syrian-Lebanese relations are being reaped by people of both countries. Such relations represent a model for inter-Arab relations. Syria stands today, as it did yesteday, alongside the Lebanese people, supporting their persistent efforts to consolidate national reconciliation, achieve the desired reforms, recontruct the country, and liberate the occupied southern part. In Syria's views, southern Lebanon is like the Golan. It is a dear and beloved territory and not a single inch of it will be relinquished. Israel has no choice but to withdraw fully from southern Lebanon, the Golan, and the occupied Arab territories. There is no peace or truce without such a withdrawal. Resistance will escalate and Israel in the future will have to pay the price for occupation many time over.

U.S. Urged To Pressure Rabin

JN1503175693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Observers of Middle East events believe that the recent repressive measures of the Israeli Government constitute a blatant declaration of war against the Palestinians. The occupation forces have been beefed up, military roadblocks have been erected everywhere, Arab workers have been prevented from leaving the Gaza Strip which has been under siege, and settlers have been allowed to carry arms and join the Israeli Army in attacking and searching villages and terrifying defenseless people. Many questions were raised about the measures that the Israeli Government shrouded with secrecy. These observers expect plans for commiting terrible massacres aimed at terrorizing the

Arab citizens and forcing a mass exodus, as happened in Dayr Yasin, Kafr Qasim, and Qibyah.

The fact is that what was impossible in the past has become possible today, and nobody is surprised at the acts of the Rabin government which pledged to follow the path of peace and to ease the Palestinians' sufferings. This government has followed the policy of war, brutality, and killing and has increased the suffering of an entire people. Rabin has triumphed over Shamir in terms of attracting the extreme right wing. Within the framework of the two men's race to gain the support of the Israelis, the killing and expulsion of the Arabs constitute the shortest and most successful path.

The next days will witness serious disasters. Suffice it to imagine the flow of 300,000 armed settlers into the occupied territories to seize more land. Those settlers will commit massacres and crimes; and blind and brutal terrorism will be their best way to expel thousands of Arab citizens from their villages and homeland under the pretext of ensuring the security of Jewish settlements.

All this is taking place in front of the world at a time when international efforts are being intensified to give a momentum to the Middle East peace process. Yitzhaq Rabin headed for Washington to meet with President Clinton today. However, Israel's peaceful allegations are refuted by the daily acts which blatantly contradict any peaceful approach.

Rabin, who is talking peace, is waging a war against the defenseless Palestinian people. And the whole world is witnessing the daily consequences of this war through the killing of children, the assassination of women and old men, and the destruction of houses. A U.S. human rights organization has asked President Clinton to raise, during his talks with Rabin, the violations of the Palestinian people's human rights and the killing of youths and children without deference to ethics or conscience.

As compliance with the Security Council resolutions, withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, and lifting the iron fist imposed on the Palestinian people are among the basic components of peace, the conditions of peace are represented by easing the suffering of people under the yoke of occupation, withdrawing the Israeli forces from villages and cities, and ordering the Zionist settlers to stop their provocations.

Nobody believes the Rabin government has done anything along these lines. The Israeli prime minister not only refuses to implement the UN resolutions, but also escalates the situation in the occupied territories to create a comprehensive conflagration and announces, through his brutal and criminal practices, that there is no room for peace in the region.

Hence we say that the responsibility of the international community, led by the United States, is becoming more acute day by day because of Rabin's gradual involvement in a policy aimed at destroying the peace process. Expelling hundreds of Palestinians in this unjust and provocative way and escalating repression and terrorism in the occupied territories are two links in a design to strike at peace efforts and torpedo the Washington talks before they even start. This design also aims at dragging the U.S. Administration into a stand that contradicts its pledges to the peace process so that the U.S. Administration will lose its role in the Middle East and its credibility on the Arab and international fronts. Israel will then have an opportunity to seriously tamper with the potential for peace.

In light of this, U.S. silence at Israel's brutal practices will not serve peace nor the interests of the United States itself. The Arabs, who responded to the peace call, expect the United States to be up to the challenge and to urge the Rabin government to abandon its aggressive policies which contradict the basic principles of the peace process and international agreements and resolutions. The Arabs also expect the U.S. Administration to champion, in words and deeds, the will for a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

President al-Asad Receives Kurdish Leader Talabani

JN1503192393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] At 1300 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Jalal Talabani, leader of Iraq's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan.

Talabani Comments

JN1503185893 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Sana' al-Imam dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has told Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK]: Our relations with you and with the other parties in the Iraqi national opposition are strategic. We do not give up our friends easily.

This was stressed by Jalal Talabani in an interview with Radio Monte Carlo this evening. He noted that Syrian-Kurdish relations have bypassed the misunderstanding

which was caused by the Salah-al-Din conference. Talabani said: I felt that President al-Asad, who received me this afternoon, understands the ongoing developments and is concerned about a democratic and unified Iraq.

In his statement to Monte Carlo, Talabani revealed that some leaders of the major forces in the Iraqi opposition will hold a meeting in Damascus after the 'Id to come out with a unified stand and find a common formula to unify all parties of the Iraqi opposition without exception, as Talabani said.

Talabani described the results of his visit to Kuwait as good, noting the existing alliance with the Kuwaitis against the Iraqi regime. He stressed that Kuwait promised to provide all forms of political, material, and moral support. He denied the presence of any foreign troops in northern Iraq.

Foreign Minister Confers With Libyan Official

JN1503172893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' at noon today received Ibrahim al-Bishari, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah's permanent Arab League representative. Humayyid Jallud, head of the Libyan relations office in Damascus, attended the meeting.

Talks focused on the seven-member committee meeting which will be held in Tunis at the end of this week. The Tunis meeting will discuss developments in the Lockerbie affair and the Libyan memorandum which will be submitted to the ministerial committee.

Afghanistan

Hekmatyar Urges Factions To Help Restore Peace

BK1503143893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] The prime minister-designate of Afghanistan, Mr. Golboddin Hekmatyar, has called upon all political parties to come forward and help to restore peace imperative for smooth transfer of power. Addressing a news conference in Peshawar, Mr. Golboddin Hekmatyar reiterated that his party would sincerely implement the Islamabad accord which would pave the way for return of peaceful conditions in Afghanistan. We should forget the past and pave the way for establishment of an Islamic government in Afghanistan, he said, and expressed confidence that all leaders of jihadi parties will extend their full cooperation in the formation of the government.

Mr. Golboddin Hekmatyar said we want good relations with all countries and peace not only in Afghanistan, but also in the region and the entire world. However, he emphasized that we will not allow anyone to interfere in our internal affairs.

In reply to a question, Mr. Golboddin Hekmatyar described the statement of General Rashid Dostam as a good development. He said the statement indicated that the Islamabad agreement had support of all the segments of the Afghan society.

To another question, Mr. Golboddin Hekmatyar said Afghanistan supported the just cause of the Kashmiri people. He condemned the atrocities being committed by Indian troops in occupied Kashmir. He said the people of Kashmir should be given their right to self-determination so as to decide their future. He also supported the cause of Palestine and Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Later, Mr. Golboddin Hekmatyar left for Jalalabad to chair an all-party meeting. The meeting will decide the formation of the Afghan cabinet.

Rejects Iranian Force Offer

BK1503160293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1549 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, March 15 (AFP)—Afghan premier-designate Golboddin Hekmatyar here Monday [15 March] welcomed a statement of support for the new Afghan accord from the one main Afghan faction head not involved in the peace process. Hekmatyar, at a news conference, also opposed a reported Iranian proposal to send a peace-keeping force to Afghanistan.

The northern Uzbek militia, led by general Rashid Dostam and rival of Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party], in a statement carried by local papers Monday, promised to support any accord which assured peace and stability in the country.

Hekmatyar said it indicated that the Islamabad accord, signed by himself, president Borhannoddin Rabbani, and six other mojahedin faction leaders on March 7, had the support of all segments of Afghan society. Dostam's role in the Afghan government would be decided at a meeting of Afghan leaders expected to take place in Jalalabad Tuesday.

Hekmatyar, giving his first press conference since the apparent swing toward peace in the war-torn country, rejected the idea of an interim peace-keeping force: "There is no provision for peace forces in the Islamabad accord".

"There is no need of any peace force because all parties have accepted the accord," said the 44-year old Hezb-e Eslami leader, whose forces were fighting for control of Kabul before the accord."

In a report Sunday from Tehran, the official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP) quoted Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani as saying Iran was prepared to send peace-keeping forces to Afghanistan. APP added that Rafsanjani also hoped that other Islamic countries would contribute troops for the purpose.

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Iran are guarantors of the peace agreement. Hekmatyar said a commission of representatives from the 50-nation Organization of Islamic Conference and Afghan parties would monitor the implementation of the accord.

He has scheduled a multi-party meeting in Jalalabad, capital of the eastern Afghan province Nangarhar, Tuesday to form his cabinet from a list of people to be recommended by the various factions.

"We should forget the past and pave the way for the establishment of an Islamic government in Afghanistan," he said adding "not a single bullet should be fired and not a drop of blood should be shed."

The last 10 months of rivalry among various mojahedin factions had proved that war could not resolve the issues, he added.

Referring to a row over who should become defence minister in the future government, Hekmatyar said the defence ministry would be entrusted to someone uncontroversial.

Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, current defence minister, was his "brother" and he had nothing against him, Hekmatyar said. He said his former bitter foe would be given a position in keeping with his contributions during the 14-year mojahedin war against communists.

The fate of former President Najibollah, who has been living in a U.N. sanctuary in Kabul since his ouster last year, would also be decided by the Afghan leaders at their upcoming meeting, he said.

India

Further Developments in Bombay Bombings

Parliamentary Debate

BK1503163493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] The Lok Sabha has rejected the adjournment motion moved by the opposition on the situation arising out of the Bombay blasts. One hundred and forty members voted against the motion and 106 in favor, while three abstained. The motion was moved by Mr. Somnath Chaterji, CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist].

Intervening in the discussion, the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, assured the House that the government will make every effort to track down the culprits responsible for the ghastly act. He said intelligence agencies have got some vital clues and investigations are continuing. Mr. Chavan said the brain behind the incident seems to be outside the country. But there are people inside who have been used as agents and it is our duty to find out these traitors.

He said it is too early to rule out the possible involvement of any foreign outfit, including the ISI [Pakistan's Inter-Service Intelligence] in the absence of any conclusive proof. The home minister said he cannot divulge all the information available with the intelligence agencies as it would hamper investigation.

He said there is nothing to indicate any connection between the Bombay blast and the explosion which occurred at the New York trade center.

Responding to points raised by members, the home minister said the Bombay incidents were aimed at creating a sense of instability and insecurity among the people. It was not only an attack on our economy, but also on the unity and integrity of the nation. Denying the criticism of the intelligence agencies, the home minister further admitted that there is need to revamp and reorient the police force and intelligence agencies. Mr. Chavan commended the citizens of Bombay for showing courage and fortitude in meeting the unprecedented situation. The home minister appealed to the opposition not to press the adjournment motion saying the House should stand united to create confidence in the minds of the people.

Replying to the motion, the CPI-M leader, Mr. Somnath Chaterji, said the ruling benches should support the motion as it only emphasizes the importance of the issue. He said the government should give a categorical assurance that it will provide full security and safety to the people and that there was no failure on the part of intelligence agencies. He regretted that even after 72 hours of the tragedy, no breakthrough has been achieved to apprehend the culprits. The speaker, Mr. Shivraj Patil, appealed to the members to give a message to the people that the House is united in this hour of grave crisis. The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr. L.K. Advani, said though everyone is determined to meet the threat, his party will press for a division.

Participating in the discussion, members urged the government to revamp the intelligence network and to tackle terrorism. They said that a special intelligence outfit should be established for the purpose. Mr. Sunit Dutt, Congress-I, appealed to the members to rise above party considerations and send a signal that the House is not divided on the issue. Mr. Jaswant Singh, BJP, held the government responsible for the tragedy and charged the ruling party of neglecting the reports of arms smuggling from across the border. Mr. Ram Naik, BJP, asked the government to specify the foreign agency behind the blasts. Mr. Rajnath Shastri, Janata Dal-A, said that the issue should not be given a political color. Mr. Mohan Rawale, Shiv Sena, said terrorism should be fought seriously. Mr. P.S. Tarkabi, RSP [Revolutionary Socialist Party], called for changing the system to fight terrorism. Mr. Amar Roy Pradhan, Forward Bloc, said all patriotic forces should come together to meet the challenge. Mr. Ramnath Joshi, BJP, wanted the government to investigate as to what the police was doing after the first blast took place. Mr. Prithviraj Chauhan, Congress-I, said the opposition has not come forward with any constructive suggestion to deal with the situation. Mr. Anand Molla, CPI-M, said corruption is the root cause behind the destabilizing act of the antinational forces. Mr. Sharad Dige, Congress-I, charged a political party of spreading rumors in the city. Mr. George Fernandes, Janata Dal, said the challenge faced by the country can be solved only through negotiations. Mrs. Pratibha Patil, Congress-I, said the need of the hour is for all to fight unitedly the menace of terrorism. Mr. Vijay Kumar Yadav, CPI, said the government should investigate the bomb blasts keeping all options open. Mr. K.M. R. Janardhanm, AIADMK [All India Dravida Munnetra Kazagham], and Mr. V.S. Rao, Telugu Desam, called for higher compensation to the injured and the bereaved families. Mr. P.C. Chakoo, Congress-I, said the opposition should not take political mileage out of the tragedy.

Replying to the points raised by members in the Rajya Sabha on the call attention motion, Mr. Chavan said at this stage it is not in the public interest to give details of the clues. Mr. Chavan reiterated that it is a foreign country that has done this ghastly act through its local agents and it is our task to identify them. Mr. Chavan strongly refuted the charges made by a member that intelligence agencies had given the information to the government on the demolition of the disputed structure at Ayodhya before the sixth of December. He said it is totally a baseless allegation.

Before adjourning to the day, the members stood in silence for a while to pay their condolences to those who were killed in the explosions and wished for the recovery of the injured. On the suggestion of the deputy chairperson of the House, Dr. Najma Heptullah, the members decided to donate one day salary to help the victims.

Initiating the discussion, Mr. Pramod Mahajan, BJP, demanded that the government should step down owning responsibility. He said the blasts are an attack on the very unity and integrity of the country and said the government should study its repercussions on the whole. The Congress-I members said the issue should not be politicized. The CPI and the CPI-M have called for immediate steps to put an end to terrorist activities by involving the people. A Janata Dal member cautioned against naming any country for its involvement before all facts are established. A JDS member said the attack should not be described merely as an assault on the economy as the bomb blasts aimed at destabilizing the nation. A Janata Party member expressed anguish and concern over its wider implications.

Hunt for 2 Suspects Continues

BK1603075893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] The Bombay police has denied news agencies reports about the arrest of Philoo Khan and Mangesh Pawar, the two alleged hard-core criminals suspected to be involved in the explosions at the two five-star hotels Sea Rock and Centaur Hotel in western suburbs of Bombay. According to the police control, a massive hunt continues to nab the suspects. All exit points have been sealed. The Bombay police commissioner said the entire state intelligence agencies along with the assistance of central agencies are working round the clock to detect and root out the subversive forces. The Maharashtra chief minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, has ruled out the possibility of anyone from among the culprits having escaped via air route. Mr. Pawar told the state assembly that a strict vigil has been enforced on the sea front. He said all precautionary measures have been taken to ensure that there is no recurrence of similar tragedies.

Clarifications Sought on U.S. Warning

BK1603094493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] The home minister told the Rajya Sabha today that he will ask the minister of external affairs to confirm through diplomatic channels a report that U.S. Administration has asked its citizens not to visit India following the Bombay bomb explosions. Mr. Chavan was responding on the subject earlier raised by Mr. Pramod Mahajan, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], during zero hour. Mr. Mahajan said according to a BBC report this morning, the U.S. State Department has asked its citizens not to visit India, particularly New Delhi. Mr. Chavan assured the house that security has been further tightened.

Commentary on Foreign Involvement

BK1503111593 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1010 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Just when the world thought that Bombay has recovered from the bloody December-January riots, the beleaguered city was convulsed by a series of explosions on Friday last. The blasts ripped through the central business districts of Flora Fountain and Nariman Point as also 10 other areas, killing 229 and injuring more than 1,200. The worst explosion boomed at 1325 Indian Standard Time at the 29-story Jijabhai Towers housing the Share Bazaar that dictates the financial fortunes of the country. Dalal Street, where the Bombay Stock Exchange Building is located, had become death street. So powerful was the detonation that it left the first four floors of the towering stock exchange building totally wrecked with extensive damage to offices above. Ninety-three persons died in this blast and a 133 injured. Chronologically, Hotel Centaur at Juhu in the western suburb was the site where the first explosion occurred at 1315 Indian Standard Time. The other places where the blasts occurred were the Shanta Bazaar and the (Masjid Bander) in south Bombay, a petrol pump opposite the Shiv Sena bhavan [office] in central Bombay, Zaveri Bazaar in south Bombay, the car park of Plaza Cinema at Dadar in central Bombay, the Centaur Hotel near Santacruz Airport, Searock Hotel at Bandra in western suburbs, and Madanpura in south Bombay. Another powerful blast occurred at 1435 Indian Standard Time at the Air Indian building at Nariman Point, nearly half a km away from the state legislature and the Broadcasting House.

Addressing a press conference later the fateful evening, the Maharashtra chief minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, said highly sophisticated bombs were used in most of the cases and it was a well-planned conspiracy with the ulterior motive of destabilizing the economic capital of the country and recreating unrest in the city. Mr. Pawar said the blasts were comparable to those executed by the Palestinians and the Sri Lankan Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] commandos. The union minister for home, Mr. S.B. Chavan, and the minister in charge of internal security, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, rushed to Bombay for an on-the-spot assessment of the situation. A team of senior officials, including explosive experts, members from the Research and Analyses Wing, Intelligence Bureau, National Security Guard, and other concerned agencies flew to Bombay to help the state government in investigation. The union home minister said according to preliminary investigation the bombs were sophisticated mechanisms and could not be the handiwork of ordinary gangsters. In the Rajya Sabha, Mr. Chavan said he suspected an international conspiracy behind the blasts.

There are obvious reasons to believe that foreign agencies and governments inimical to the very existence of India are behind the incidents. Such an elaborately crafted destruction plan aimed at creating confusion and mayhem can never be the handiwork of the assorted terrorist groups operating in the country. The inspector general of Maharashtra State Reserve Police, Aftab Ahmed Khan, said that from the pattern the perpetrators

followed, it appears to be a well-planned and organized operation. One theory making the round is the Hizballah terrorists of West Asian organization being involved in the blasts, either through money, men, or advice. The city police commissioner, Mr. Amarajit Singh Samra, has outrightly denied the involvement of Kashmiri youths in the bomb blasts and has emphasized that the police was not chasing any Iranian groups, which were believed, according to some reports, to have planted the bombs. Mr. Samra indicated that such powerful bombs were the trademark of LTTE and such bombs were never used in India as even the terrorist outfits did not possess such explosives.

The prime minister on his visit to Bombay a day after said that the obvious inference from the choice of spots is that the blasts were aimed at paralyzing the economic activity and the economy of the nation.

Need To Increase Security Awareness

BK1603043893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Commentary by journalist S.S. Gill]

[Text] When 13 bomb blasts ripped through the most prominent landmarks of Bombay last Friday, they not only left death and destruction in their wake, they shell-shocked the entire nation. A terrorist act of such magnitude and intensity had not only never been witnessed before in India; it was the most brutal and barbarous outrage of its type anywhere in the world. Whereas with its characteristic resilience and courage, Bombay is rapidly limping back to normalcy, the implications of this dastardly crime need careful study so as to minimize the risk of its recurrence.

India has faced terrorism before and always managed to control or eliminate it, but the present case is unlike anything we have ever faced before. Here in one sweep, a diabolical crime of gigantic proporitions was committed with clockwork precision by the application of the latest available technology. Nothing definite is yet known about the identity of the terrorists or their motivations in killings and maiming hundreds of innocent people. Only one fact stands out. The act was intended to spread panic, dislocate the country's economic life, and tarnish India's image by exposing the vulnerability of its security environment. And this last item should make us sit up and do some serious introspection.

The prime minister has assured the country that his government was determined to unravel the hand and the brain behind the Bombay blasts. This is the great challenge for our security outfits and investigation agencies. Earlier identification of the culprits will greatly restore public confidence in the efficiency of our system. There have been demands from several quarters to overhaul our intelligence and investigation agencies. Actually, this has to be a continuous process. With technological advances and especially the electronic revolution, terrorists have now acquired highly sophisticated tools to execute their evil designs. Moreover, some countries have embarked on the suicidal course to giving special training to terrorists with a view to settling political sores with other countries. India, particularly, has been the victim of such hostile acts by a disgruntled neighbor.

All these factors throw up very special challenges to upgade our security environment. Not only the governmental agencies, but the civilian population in general would also have to become much more sensitive to matters of national security. If eternal vigilance is the price of liberty, then all of us must be prepared to pay it. And the best mode of payment is to become self-appointed security guards in our respective areas of activity.

Bihar Strike Evokes Mixed Response; 375 Arrested

BK1503165893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] In Bihar, 375 persons have been arrested in connection with today's Jharkhand bundh [strike]. They include Jharkhand Mukti Morcha-Soren MP, Mr. Sailendra Mahto, and two MLA's [members of Legislative Assembly], Mr. Sudhir Mahto and Hinglal Murmu. The bundh call, which was given to press the demand for a separate Jharkhand state, evoked mixed response. Briefing newsmen in Patna this evening, the state home secretary, Mr. J.N. Arya, said that barring a few minor incidents, the overall situation is normal. Our Ranchi correspondent reports that the production and loading of coal in the eastern coalfields have been paralyzed.

'Special Security' Arranged

BK1603040093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] In Bihar, special security arrangements have been made to ensure normal production, loading and dispatch of coal, bauxite, and other minerals in view of the indefinite economic blockade call given by the All Party Jharkhand Action Committee from this morning. The South Chota Nagpur divisional commissioner, Mr. Pillai, told our Ranchi correspondent that paramilitary forces have been deployed on the interstate highways and round-the-clock railway track patrolling is being done in sensitive areas of Chota Nagpur. Transportation of bauxite from Lohardaga mines has been arranged with the help of police convoys.

Two' Hard-Core Militants,' Other Killed in Punjab

BK1603041293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] In Punjab, two hard-core militants—Major Khan and Iqbal Singh—were killed in an encounter with the security forces at village Khamba in Rupar District last night. The Rupar SSP [senior superintendent of police] told our Chandigarh correspondent that Major Khan

was responsibile for over 50 killings including the AIR [All India Radio] station engineer, Mr. N.L. Manchanda, and was carrying a reward of 5 lakh rupees on his head.

Elsewhere in the state, one militant was killed in Mansa District and one was arrested in Amritsar.

Bill To Acquire Ayodhya Land Introduced in Lok Sabha

BK1603094293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] A bill seeking to acquire certain areas including the site of the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [temple-mosque] at Ayodhya has been introduced in the Lok Sabha. The bill says that the Ayodhya dispute has affected the maintenance of public order and harmony between different communities in the country and the acquisition of the land has become necessary to promote the spirit of brotherhood amongst the people of India. The bill seeks to empower the central government to acquire the notified land in the three villages of Kot Ramachandra, Avadh Khas, and Jarwanpur.

Clinton Comment on 'Religious Fighting' Criticized

BK1503100193 Delhi PATRIOT in English 1 Mar 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Clinton on India"]

[Text] President Bill Clinton spoke about religious fighting in India. This was uncalled for. He was answering questions by children in a nationally televised programme, and no significance need be attached to questions put by innocent children. But what is a matter of concern for India is the manner in which the US President brought in India's name while answering the children. He was asked what the US could do to stop the fighting and killing around the world. The children had not asked him about India. But in his reply the President spoke of what the US could or could not do to stop killings in Somalia, Bosnia, and Haiti, and then went on to refer to "religious fighting" in India. He then added, apropos of India, it "is a long way away from us and it is very hard for us to have any influence there." It is the association of India's name with the names of the three other countries mentioned by him, which causes concern. To the problems of Bosnia, Somalia and Haiti the US policies made contributions. Now Americans have directly intervened in all these countries. What is happening in India is purely its internal affair just as the San Francisco [as published] ethnic riots were an internal matter of the US. Even the Muslim countries have treated the communal disturbances as India's domestic problem, although some protests were voiced after the demolition of the Babri mosque at Ayodhya. Pakistan has been trying to internationalise the issue but has not had much success. How then India has come to be associated with Bosnia and the other two countries, in President Clinton's mind? Probably, the key words in his remarks are "religious fighting." Religious fighting and ethnic conflicts can become a matter of international concern insofar as these could destabilise regions and disturb peace. So far, the disturbances in India have not taken the form of a "religious fight" and there is no reason for the US to put his emotive label on them. But the communal forces within the country should take the US president's remarks as a warning. After Bosnia, "religious fighting" has begun to attract external intervention, although in Bosnia, Western policies led to the dismemberment of Yugoslavia and the Serb-Croat conflict which resurrected the old Balkan discords. Religious fighting has connotation of bad governance; and the US and some Western powers try to link developmental aid to good governance. Indian diplomacy has to work to check the international drift whereby domestic concerns of a country can be misused to enforce external intervention. However, India has to put its own house in order. That is Indians' concern, not President Clinton's.

Hindi Paper Views U.S. Stand on BJP Nuclear Policy

BK1503134793 Bombay NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 5 Mar 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Bharatiya Janata Party, Nuclear Bomb, and America"]

[Text] Two statements made before the Foreign Relations Committee of the U.S. Congress could be of significance for India. The statements came from two experts who had actively contributed to preparing the draft of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] and that is why their statements cannot be dismissed as pure academic importance. The experts are Leonard Spector and (Michael Krepon). Both have expressed the view that if the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] came to power in India, a nuclear arms race will begin in South Asia. Describing the BJP as a Hindu nationalist party, both suspect that it will manufacture nuclear weapons according to its declared manifesto, and then it will be difficult to restrain Pakistan. Both experts see a strong possibility for the BJP coming to power, a consequence of which nuclear nonproliferation will suffer a setback in South Asia.

But we are not ready to accept that the United States will be able to influence this extremely internal issue of India's political sovereignty through these two leading personalities or their voice. India is not a rolling stone which can be turned in whatever direction by whoever and whenever. After all, it was because of India's courage that, in spite of years of international pressure, no central government agreed to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and now the affluent nations have been forced to think about easing this pressure. No party in India should also be under the illusion that it has found a new weapon against the BJP. The BJP should also not make it a bargaining chip because if the United States does not like the BJP, it does note like the Janata Dal or the Communist Party of India-Marxist as well. The matter is

a different nature. The fact is that the United States likes its national interests the most and its experts and leaders make long-term and well-considered preparations to protect them. The two aforementioned experts also told the Foreign Relations Committee of the U.S. Congress that the Indian missile program should be stopped. Otherwise, they fear it will be difficult to stop Pakistan and both countries will gradually attain the capability of inter-continental ballistic missiles. That is why restraint is necessary and if straightforward diplomacy fails, there should be no hesitancy to use means such as economic assistance, bilateral trade, and multipurpose credits.

So, the first message is that an attitude is being created in the United States that once again equates India and Pakistan, as hinted in the CIA director's statement last week. The second message is that the United States will not stop only at oral commitments on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. The third message is that the United States is carrying out an in-depth study of the political turmoil in India. The question is whether we in India are aware of all this?

Iran

Va'ezi Says Better UK Ties Not Possible Yet

LD1603080593 Tehran IRNA in English 0654 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] Vienna, March 16, IRNA—Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs Mahmud Va'ezi here Sunday [14 March] said that as long as Britain refused to respect Islamic values, Tehran would not consider better ties with London.

Va'ezi, interviewed by IRNA, said that Britain would get an appropriate answer from Iran for its latest actions against the Islamic Republic in international community. "We can have no diplomatic or trade ties if Britain refuses to understand and respect our values and beliefs. We have enough experience with British attitude and policy of ignorance, therefore a normal relationship cannot be on the agenda yet" he said.

Because of Iranian opposition to the Middle East peace talks which is based on the will of Palestinians living under occupation, thus contradicting with the U.S., Israeli and British interests, Tehran is witnessing a major international propaganda against Iran waged by them, Va'ezi said. But "our position and duty to the Palestinians will not change," he stressed.

Va'ezi: Croats, Muslims Suffering From UN Sanctions

LD1503170293 Tehran IRNA in English 1547 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Vienna, March 15, IRNA—Mahmud Va'ezi, Iran's deputy foreign minister for American and European affairs, called the situation in ex-Yugoslavia explosive, and criticized the Vance-Owen plan for favouring Serbs.

Va'ezi, in an interview with IRNA here Sunday [14 March] on a stop-over from a two day fact-finding visit to Zagreb and talks with Croat and Bosnian leaders, said that despite the U.N. embargo, Serbs were getting weapons, fuel and foodstuff with no difficulties while Croats and Muslims were the ones who suffer truly from the sanctions.

He emphasized that for Bosnians to obtain the means of self-defence, Iran will try to press for lifting of U.N. imposed sanctions against Bosnia through member states of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC). An OIC meeting is to be held in Islamabad soon.

Other topic of Va'ezi's talks included settlement of differences between Croats and Muslims. Franjo Tudjman, the Croat leader promised to use all possible means to solve the problem and in return, Va'ezi is to bring the matter up with the Bosnian side.

Iran has so far contributed vast amounts of aid to the Bosnians depending on the need. Main items of aid has been medicine, food, winter clothing and fuel distributed in Bosnia through the Iranian Embassy and Red-Cresent, he added.

In the next OIC meeting, the idea of an OIC representative to the peace talks and war-crimes tribunal will be discussed. Lack of progress, the one-sided stand the U.N. and EC envoys have taken in protecting the Serb interests and British professionalism in drawing new borders to ensure future crisis have contributed to such a need, Va'ezi stressed.

During his two day visit, the deputy foreign minister held talks with Croat leader Franjo Tudjman, foreign, trade and defence ministers as well as high ranking officials. Alija Izetbegovic the Bosnian leader was also consulted on a long telephone conversation.

More official visits are planned in the near future, for talks on trade and the situation in ex-Yugoslavia between Croatia and Iran, he said.

Turkish Accusations Over Fundamentalists 'Baseless'

LD1603080093 Tehran IRNA in English 0642 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] Vienna, March 16, IRNA—Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Va'ezi, here on a stopover to Kiev, termed the accusations made by Turkey on Iranian involvement with training and supporting Turkish fundamentalists as "baseless".

Va'ezi, in an interview with IRNA Sunday, said that the accusation is contrary to Iran's foreign policy and the good relationship it enjoys with its neighbouring countries. Turkey, is facing internal difficulties, specially with the Kurdish minority, he said adding that Ankara, failing to overcome its internal problems, has reacted hurriedly.

Va'ezi added that the Turkish minister for internal affairs, recently in Tehran, was convinced that Iran had no role in training Turkish fundamentalists, but apparently under the influence of Western conspiracy against Iran had levelled the accusations.

Delhi Cites Besharati's Remarks on Bombay Bomb Blasts

BK1403032293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] Talking to India's new ambassador in Tehran, the Iranian deputy foreign minister, Mr. 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, described Friday's [12 March] blasts [in Bombay] as a terrorist act. He said that Iran supports India's territorial integrity.

The European Community and its member states have also condemned the bomb blasts in Bombay.

'Hint' of Involvement in Bombay Blasts Protested

LD1603074993 Tehran IRNA in English 0706 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] New Delhi, March 16, IRNA—The Iranian Embassy here Sunday [14 March] protested against the hint in the Indian press that Iran was possibly involved in the blasts that rocked Bombay last Friday.

Replying to a banner headline that appeared in the "TIMES OF INDIA" yesterday, the embassy commented, it smelt of "certain invisible hands...trying to provoke public sentiment against the Islamic Republic of Iran."

The letter further urged the paper to "clarify to the people of India that the people and the Government of Iran are against all kinds of terrorist activities and condemn them." It also expressed its deep sorrow over the tragic incident in Bombay.

MKO Leader Assassination in Rome Reported

LD1603120893 Tehran IRNA in English 1139 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] Rome, March 16, IRNA—A leading member of the outlawed Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) was assassinated in Rome this morning, the Italian News Agency reported. It described the man as Mohammad Hoseyn Naqdi and said he was the leader of the MKO in Italy. The agency did not provide further information. No group or individual has yet claimed responsibility for the attack.

Naqdi was in charge of the Iranian Embassy in Rome for some time after the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Observers here believe that Naqdi has been most probably a victim of inter-group differences among MKO leaders.

Foreign Ministry Regrets Zambia's 'Hasty' Move

LD1303182393 Tehran IRNA in English 1802 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] Tehran, March 13, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman, Morteza Sarmadi today termed Zambia's unilateral action to sever diplomatic relations with Tehran as a hasty and unreasonable move.

Expressing regret over the straining of relations between Tehran and Lusaka, Sarmadi called it a result of a conspiracy engineered by enemies of the two nations.

He rejected the alleged involvement of Tehran in the coup attempt in Lusaka, and stressed that Iran's foreign policy is principally based on non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

The southern central African state accused Iran of financing a failed coup in Zambia through the country's main opposition the United National Independence Party (UNIP).

Paper Condemns Zambia's 'Baseless' Allegations

LD1403144193 Tehran IRNA in English 1353 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA—An English daily today in its editorial blasted as "baseless and irresponsible" Zambian Government's allegations against Iran that the latter was plotting to topple the ruling government in Lusaka.

Following the allegations levelled against the Islamic Republic and Iraq on Thursday [11 March], Zambia severed relations with the two countries. It also accused Iran and Iraq of supporting the opposition United National Independence Parties (UNIP).

"Allegations that Iran is harboring 'terrorist' and opposition organisations in some neighboring and African countries 'to spread its influence' are not only baseless and irresponsible but without any substance," said KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL, adding that "it is unfortunate that Islamic Iran is the most misunderstood nation in the Persian Gulf region."

"If there is internal unrest in Zambia, why point dirty fingers at Tehran?" questioned the daily.

"Severing diplomatic ties is no way to counter it. Because, for argument's sake, if Tehran wants to create instability in another country, it can still do so even without the presence of its embassy," it pointed out.

The editorial agreed with the Foreign Ministry that Zambia had adopted the decision due to its dire need of foreign aid from the West and under the big powers wishes.

The paper wondered how a plot to topple the Zambian Government could have been aided simultaneously by

both Iran and Iraq, given the strained relations between the two countries after their eight- year war.

"It's a pity that nations in Third World are not able to stand up for themselves and ultimately bent to the dictates of big powers who in reality are holding small nations at ransom. The weapon they use is money-power."

Majles Assails European Parliament's 'Blatant Interference'

LD1403181593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] Following the hostile stance adopted by the European Parliament against the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Majles has issued a statement in which this stance is described as blatant interference in the internal security and territorial integrity of an independent country.

The statement refers to Western provocations against the Islamic Republic of Iran in a variety of cases, and says that the European Parliament has been used as a tool. It stresses: If the European Parliament is concerned about human rights and individual freedom, why does it maintain silence in the face of the crimes of the Serbs in Bosnia-Hercegovina and the repression of Muslims in their own countries? In its statement, the Majles describes as unfounded the claim of the European Parliament concerning the military occupation of the three Persian Gulf islands and emphasizes: Iran's territorial integrity is inviolable and Iran's geographical map has a clear historical and proven record. The European Parliament's statement constitutes blatant interference in the internal security of an independent country, does not conform to any international code of behavior, and clearly creates tensions in the region with these incitements.

DPK Political Bureau Office Shelled 13, 14 Mar

NC1603065493 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] On Saturday 13 March, after bombing the Political Bureau of the Democratic Party of Kordestan of Iran [DPK] in Qandil on the Iran-Iraq border area with six bombers, martyring four party peshmerga, wounding several others, and inflicting heavy financial damage on farmers in the region, the antipopular and reactionary regime, which does not recognize any international law, shelled the DPK Political Bureau headquarters and adjacent farmlands between 1430 and 1900. Fortunately, no one was killed in the shelling.

It should be noted that the shelling started again the next day at 1020. Fortunately, no one was killed this time either.

This terrorist act by the regime, like the air raid, is tantamount to violating the UN resolution on this area and international laws, and is disrespectful and insulting to Iraqi rule and the leadership of the Kurdish movement in Iraq.

We call on all the people of Kordestan, especially of Iraqi Kurdistan, as well as political organizations and the Iraqi Government to raise their voice in protest to this and not to allow the clerical regime to turn Iraqi Kurdistan into an arena of plots, machinations, and discord.

We also call on international organizations and forums not to allow the clerical regime to trample on and ridicule international laws and norms.

AFP, INA Cited on Resistance's Warning

NC1503200193 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 1800 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] AGENCE-FRANCE PRESSE [AFP] disseminated a report about the position of Brother Mas'ud Rajavi [leader of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization—MKO] on the bombing of the Kurdish Democratic Party's Qasemlu branch, headlined "Rajavi Threatens the Iranian Regime With Retaliation."

AFP reported that Rajavi, leader of the [overall] Iranian resistance movement, denounced the Iranian regime's attack on an Iranian Kordish base in Iraq and threatened Iran with retaliation. AFP adds: In a statement, the leader of the MKO termed this attack an overt and consecutive violation of UN Security Council Resolution 598 on the Iran-Iraq cease-fire and said: The Iranian resistance reserves the right to respond at an opportune time within Iranian territory.

The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, INA, reflected the stance of the leader of the Iranian resistance and said: Mas'ud Rajavi, the head of the National Council of the Iranian resistance, said in his message disseminated in Paris by the secretary general of the Council: If the Iranian regime's aerial attack on a base of the National Liberation Army [as heard] is not duly answered, it will only encourage this dictatorial clerical regime to continue and repeat such crimes.

INA added that Rajavi has asked the UN Security Council to (?condemn) the aggression, bombing, and other attacks by the clerical regime, which are a result of the increasing decay and abjectness of this regime regarding its incurable domestic political, social, and economic crisis.

Opposition Radio on 'Wave' of Protests, Strikes

NC1503203193 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 1800 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] The office of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization [MKO] has issued a statement to inform the international public about the wave of protests and strikes in various Iranian cities against the repressive policies of the clerical regime. In the statement, it said: In one of the greatest antiregime protests in the past few years, the strike by thousands of workers of the Tabriz tractor manufacturing factory has entered its fourth week.

Dozens of workers have been arrested by the regime's Revolution Guards in the past few days. Despite this, the regime's Guards were not able to disperse the demonstrating workers. Until now, workers of five companies affiliated with the Tabriz factory have also gone on strike in solidarity with the workers of this factory.

Similarly, workers of the Bisotun sugar factory situated 3 km east of Kermanshah also have been on strike since 4 March because the government did not pay the employees.

In its statement, the MKO office added: In addition, in the past few weeks workers of other factories including the Tabriz ball bearing factory, the Jahanchit weaving mill in Karaj, and the Behshahr weaving factory have gone on strike to protest the government's repressive policies.

Thousands of butchers in Tehran Province, who had staged a sit-in outside the premises of the government union of their guild because of a cut in their quotas, were attacked by the regime's Guard forces on the fifth day of their sit-in.

The MKO statement reported that on 11 March, the students of Beheshti High School in western Tehran protested the expulsion of a number of students at that school by the Training Institute, which is an organization for espionage and surveillance that seeks to learn the beliefs of students in various schools. The students burned portraits of Khamene'i, Khomeyni, and Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Following a savage onslaught by the anti-riot units of the Revolution Guards, 80 students were arrested. Their families have had no news of their children's whereabouts.

Students of Melli University in Tehran and Tabriz Science University also staged protests on 22 February and 9 March against the regime's policies and the dismissal of a university professor.

Afghan Refugees Seek UNHCR Assistance

LD1403135993 Tehran IRNA in English 1310 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., Mar. 14 IRNA—Scores of Afghan refugees demonstrated outside the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) here, demanding assistance for their return home.

Interviewed by IRNA, a representative of the refugees, who are sympathizers of the pro-democracy Association of Afghanistan, welcomed a peace accord inked recently by the rival Afghan Mojahedin groups in Islamabad.

He also blamed the bloody fightings and massacres of defenceless Afghan people over the past 10 months on the power struggle among Mojahedin groups. Providing the refugees with necessary facilities on the part of the UNHCR and the host countries would speed up pace of their repatriation, he said.

A resolution read by the demonstrators, called for holding free elections in Afghanistan, Afghan Government's pledge to solve economic problems of that country and help accommodate refugees returning home and for payment of war reparations by the Russian Government.

They also urged Muslim countries and the United Nations to contribute to the reconstruction of their war-ravaged country.

Meanwhile, the demonstrators requested to meet with the UNHCR officer who declined to meet them.

U.S. Seen To Show 'Deep Animosity' Toward Islam

NC1203130993 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 7 Mar 93 p 2

[Hoseyn Shari'atmadari commentary: "Contradictory U.S. Message"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In its latest statement, the U.S. State Department expressed its indignation at the Islamic Republic of Iran's opposition to the plan for an Arab-Israel compromise and at Iran's insistence on implementing the decree against Salman Rushdie. This clearly indicates that Iran's stance is correct—a source of joy in itself.

Although the United States is the arch satan and satan always has many tricks up his sleeve, his treachery is weak, especially as his opponents have proven that they observe 'Ashura and Ramadan and are ready for the battlefield.

In its statement issued yesterday, the United States clearly and unambiguously admitted its deep animosity for "Islam." This is because opposition to Israel and insistence on implementing the decree to execute Rushdie stem directly from Islam, which all Muslim sects accept.

On this basis, the U.S. openly admitting to its enmity against Islam should be considered a horrifying and shattering blow to the Western camp. Its positive effects on the Islamic camp are:

A. Such a statement leaves no one, not even the most skeptical, in any doubt that U.S. hostility against the Islamic Republic of Iran is based on Islam. This affirms the Iranian stance, which the West and U.S. regional allies have constantly sought to refute for fear of arousing the sensitivities of the Muslim nations.

B. The U.S. State Department's statement issued yesterday calls all Muslims into the arena to discharge their religious and lawful obligation in line with the shari'ah. The West has clearly tested the effectiveness and efficiency of religious motivation on the battlefield.

C. The statement openly confirms the United States' role in the massacre of the Muslims of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

the oppressed Palestinian nation, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, and other atrocities elsewhere in the Islamic world. It has lifted the mask of dissimulation and hypocrisy from the visage of the United States and exposed it as the overt enemy of Islam and the Muslims, thus explaining the occurrence of such heinous atrocities.

D. By issuing such a statement, the United States has created a major problem for its regional allies and the servile rulers of most of the Islamic countries that justify their cooperation with the United States. It has dragged them into an inextricable impasse by pitching them against their own ilk.

This is while the heads of most of the Islamic countries are in great need of an "Islamic display" for the sake of their own Muslim people, in view of fast-growing Islamist movements. It is obvious that this display that professes to seek Islam and simultaneous support for the United States are antithetical and in conflict with one another. Undoubtedly, the Muslim nations know of these false and exaggerated claims.

Concluding, the United States should understand that the element of force has lost its efficacy in the power formula and that the era of political and cultural awakening and the vigilance of societies and nations has dawned. In this new era, the first and last word will be uttered by logic and fact, of which the United States is totally bereft.

Commentary Views U.S. Pressure on Sudan

LD1303140793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1112 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Following an increase in U.S. pressure on Sudan, Herman Cohen, U.S. assistant secretary of state, has called on Washington's allies to impose an arms embargo on the Khartoum government. He has also said that the White House is considering the creation of a safe haven in southern Sudan and placing that country on the list of the countries that support terrorism.

Since the beginning of the current year, there has been increased pressure on Sudan and murmurs of U.S. military intervention in southern Sudan in political circles in America. The establishment of a U.S.-led multinational force in Somalia increased those murmurs to such an extent that it forced Khartoum to react to such intimidation.

Sudan's announcement that it would not distribute relief aid to the southern region provided Washington with the pretext to put those pressures into action, but the pretext was taken away from Washington when Khartoum agreed to send and distribute foodstuffs to the south.

Meanwhile, the recent warning issued by the U.S. State Department is indicative of the fact that the White House still intends to continue exerting pressure on Sudan. That is why political circles currently attach particular importance to the review and discussion of America's intentions and stances towards the Government of Sudan.

Despite the problems that Sudan has always had to deal with, that country's government has achieved outstanding success in domestic and regional fields during the current year. After a partly active period, Sudan's diplomatic activities at international assemblies, and particularly in the Arab world, have given that country a special status that has aroused the concern of America and even Sudan's northern neighbor, Egypt.

In fact, the reappearance of the old file on the border dispute between Cairo and Khartoum on the region of Hala'ib—which followed the presence of Egyptian forces in that region—should be seen within the framework of the same issue, because as Sudan's role has strengthened in the Arab world during the past few years, Egypt has been treading a downhill path.

In any case, it can be concluded that U.S. pressure on Sudan will continue until that country changes its policies, because Herman Cohen has stated that one of the reasons for Washington's warning was because of Sudan's relations with a number of countries who oppose U.S. policies. Of course, that does not mean that America will enforce its threats. Political experts believe that the present situation is not right for any kind of U.S. intervention in the internal affairs of Sudan.

The recapture by government forces of territories that were under the control of rebels in southern Sudan and the passive stances adopted by the rebels in the peace negotiations with the central government—because of the growing differences between them—have placed Khartoum on the verge of achieving further success. This is so much so that any kind of pretext for interference in the domestic affairs of that country can be ruled out.

No Change Seen in U.S. Korea Policy

LD1503131593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1106 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] With North Korea leaving the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, prompting a state of alert in the two Korean armies, tension has once again returned to the Korean peninsula. [passage omitted]

Political observers believe that for different reasons, America still needs its military presence in South Korea, and the prospect of an early U.S. military forces departure from the region is unlikely.

Looking at the current situation in the region, it is clear that certain goals are pursued by the staging of a joint

maneuver between America and South Korea, which can be termed as the new U.S. strategy in the Asia-Pacific region.

America is concerned that certain regional countries, including China, are seriously threatening U.S. interests with their economic progress and serious presence in regional arms markets. An issue that, according to the Americans, justifies the continuation of their military presence in the region.

No doubt, with the possible peaceful unification of the two Koreas—or at least a decrease in the differences that exist between Seoul and Pyongyang—America will be forced to withdraw its forces from the Korean peninsula, an issue that contradicts the U.S. strategy.

In any case, the strategic significance of South Korea for future U.S. political and military plans in the Asia-Pacific region is more important to see how Washington would leave its bases in the near future. This is so much so that political experts believe that with U.S. foreign policy being formed on the basis of safeguarding its own interests all over the world, Washington's strategy on relations with other countries during Clinton's presidency is generally following the same course as those in the past.

NY Explosion, U.S. 'Domineering Tyrannization' Viewed

NC1303172793 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 3 Mar 93 p 2

[Commentary by Asadollah Badamchian, deputy head of the Judiciary]

[Excerpt] The explosion that occurred at the World Trade Center in New York on Friday has had greater repercussions than any other explosion in the world. It is for this reason that the new U.S. President and experts all over the world have analyzed the incident and adopted various stances on it.

A complete analysis is not possible until the reasons and those responsible for the explosion come to light, but certain points are worth mentioning regarding its repercussions.

-This explosion has taken place at the beginning of the Clinton presidency and naturally, it is an unpleasant occurrence for Clinton and his associates. Some believe that this explosion is due to the power struggle within the U.S. Administration, in an attempt to aggravate the covert tussle in the U.S. hierarchy.

-The explosion in the World Trade Center has generated a sense of insecurity and has occupied the attention of U.S. leaders. It comes in the wake of the budget deficit crisis, a deficit in the balance of foreign trade, an increase in the expenditure of U.S. intervention abroad, widespread bankruptcy in a series of U.S. companies and factories, the presence of strong economic rivals on the international marketing sphere, and numerous other economic problems triggered by the riots in Los Angeles and New York. Clinton wishes to find a semblance of order amid this chaos. If he is unable to do so, he will—on the basis of the principles of capitalism—be doomed to defeat and will be forced to exit from the scene in shame and contempt, and this will bring the United States closer to its downfall.

In such difficult circumstances, the explosion has intensified insecurity and has made it obvious that the economy is exceptionally vulnerable.

The explosion in the World Trade Center will have an adverse effect on Clinton's plans to rein in the economy. If such explosions recur, Clinton's economic policies to reform the economy will be undermined.

-The explosion took place in a building which was well guarded and security was especially stringent at the level where it occurred—the parking place of the vehicles of the security personnel and the venue for parking the U.S. President's automobile when he visits New York. The incident has thus greatly undermined the credibility of the security, intelligence and law enforcement apparatus of the United States. In other words, the writing on the wall is clear: If the United States cannot safeguard even one floor of the most important building in the heart of New York, how can they ever put into practice the foolish policy of Bush—the establishment of a new world order or a new chapter of U.S. domination?

-The horror-stricken and confused reaction of the U.S. leaders on the explosion has exposed the immense vulnerability of the United States in the face of such events. This reaction and the various dimensions of the explosion will probably prompt various groups abroad, who are opposed to Clinton's faction and his policies, to contemplate further blows which will naturally render Clinton and his policies unsuccessful. Just as a U.S. expert had said: The number of those who are furious over arrogant U.S. policies at home and abroad has not been lessened.

It is natural that in the face of these problems and their repercussions, the United States and the U.S. press should try to make foreign elements look as if they are involved in, and responsible for, this explosion. They are accusing the Serbs, the Palestinians and now the Iraqis of responsibility for the explosion. As usual, a couple of their publications also hinted at Iranian involvement even though they know that Iran does not have the slightest connection to this incident.

In my opinion, they should seek the real root of this explosion and of the past unrest. It is quite likely that any unrest in the future will stem from the erroneous and arrogant policies of the United States at home and abroad. The United States should refrain from their domineering tyrannization of nations and their belligerent interference in the various parts of the world.

According to divine traditions, tyranny never goes unpunished in the world. The arrogant U.S. policies are entirely comprised of tyranny and aggression. Even though initially tyranny inflicts anguish on the oppressed, ultimately divine wrath gives the devout persons the upper hand and they annihilate the tyrant. [passage omitted]

'Innovative Approach' in Foreign Ties Sought

NC1403125293 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 7 Mar 93 p 2

[Majid Reza'iyan commentary: "Some Observations Regarding Iran's Economic Relations With the West"]

[Excerpts] Utilizing an innovative approach in foreign relations gives countries an edge over others and places them in a privileged position. This fact becomes clear when you consider that progressive countries use political innovation and economic levers to pressure their trading partners.

Proposals by the interim Friday imam of Tehran, Ayatollah Jannati, regarding a reappraisal of Iran's relations with Britain can be viewed from this angle. Britain is the flag-bearer of the Western front bent on pressuring Iran. It would be appropriate if we forged our ties with Britain within a specific framework; in some instances, we should downgrade these ties.

If we were to assess the political and economic actions of the industrial countries with regard to Iran in the past 14 years, we would realize that the level of these relations change in proportion to Iran's political stances on various regional and international issues. [passage omitted]

If we view relations within this perspective and keep in mind the needs and weaknesses of other sides when expanding relations, we will be able to extract greater concessions from others. Belief in oneself is a precursor to self-reliance. The fact is that in today's world, we cannot adopt a reactive posture or act from a position of weakness in economic relations and international exchanges.

Our political clout today lies in the strong presence of Islamism; the political, cultural, and international levers have given Iran a unique position. Iran is an indicator for Third World countries. This is why the West has become increasingly sensitive about Iran: It disseminates a new wave of anti-Iranian propaganda every day.

In any case, Islamic Iran should utilize its cultural and political levers to the optimum, in revamping its economic relations with the Western world. We should not forget that the bases of power in the world are in the throes of a change. Real power today stems from political, economic, and cultural strength and the strength of mutual relations. We have the upper hand as regards cultural strength as a result of our support for Islamism and the craving of the international community and contemporary society for spirituality. As regards economic strength, the arteries, the very life of the material world, is in the hands of Persian Gulf nations. This is because energy is still the most decisive factor in the world's economy. This reality must not be forgotten. [passage omitted]

Islamic Iran is obliged to maintain political alertness and capitalize on various levers in expanding its economic relations with Western countries, especially Britain, to motivate them to change their political stances. This approach will enable us to consistently retain the initiative in our foreign policy and international exchanges.

Nepal

Communists Call Strike Over Dam, Power Cuts

BK1203141393 Hong Kong AFP in English 1323 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Text] Kathmandu, March 12 (AFP)—The Nepali Government will not allow troublemakers to destroy property during a communist-organised general strike on Sunday [14 March], Home Minister Sher Bahadur Deupa said.

"In a democracy everyone has the right to express, right to criticise the government's mistakes and hold demonstrations peacefully, but no one has the right to take the law into their own hands and damage public or private property," Deupa said.

He vowed there would not be a repeat of the destruction caused during a similar strike in Kathmandu last summer.

Nepal's four communist factions have called for a general strike in the Kathmandu valley to express resentment at the government's decision to allow India to build part of the Tanakpur barrage in Nepal, and lengthy power cuts imposed on alternate days despite a recent 92 percent rise in electricity prices.

The strike was called by the Nepal Communist Party (United Marxist and Leninist) (NCP-UML), the Nepal Peasants and Workers Party (NPWP), the United People's Front (UPF) and the NCP (Mashal Flaming-Torch).

Deupa, responding to claims that crime had increased since the power cuts were introduced early this week, said: "The government has planned for night patrolling on a regular basis during the power shedding period."

At a public rally following a demonstration march by 5,000 communist supporters in Kathmandu, party leaders criticised Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala's government for the thirteen-hour long power cuts, and the Tanakpur agreement.

UPF leader and parliamentarian Lilamani Pokharel denounced the government for failing to supply adequate drinking water and electricity to the general public.

"Is there any civilized country in the world where the power shedding lasts for thirteen hours in a 24-hour day on a regular basis?" Pokharel asked.

"The load shedding has virtually crippled the country's industries and caused inconvenience to the people," he added.

NCP-UML parliamentary leader Madhav Kumar Nepal called the Koirala government's role "treacherous and anti people's right".

"The Tanakpur agreement with India has clearly shown that the prime minister does not have any worries or anxieties for the country's future," he said.

Over 6,000 Demonstrate

BK1403005693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1804 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] Kathmandu, March 13 (AFP)—More than 6,000 activists of Nepal's four communist factions held a torch-light demonstration late Saturday demanding the cancellation of an agreement with India on the Tanakpur dam, witnesses said.

A spokesman for the Nepal Communist Party (United Marxist and Leninist) said the action preceded a dawn to dusk general strike called for Sunday [14 March].

The demonstration was held to express opposition to the decision to allow India to build part of the Tanakpur hydroelectric dam on Nepalese soil and lengthy power cuts on alternate days despite a recent 92 percent rise in electricity prices.

The demonstrators marched around Kathmandu and Patan, just outside the capital, and denounced Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala's government, the witnesses added.

Riot police were deployed at important public establishments in the two towns, a police source said.

The demonstration lasted an hour and a half with protestors quietly dispersing afterwards.

Markets, Factories, Schools Close

BK1403123493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1049 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] Kathmandu, March 14 (AFP)—Markets were shut and traffic ground to a halt in the three towns of the Kathmandu valley Sunday [14 March] as residents observed a dawn-to-dusk general strike called by Nepal's four communist factions, witnesses said.

Some state-run buses and rickshaws were operating for about an hour and a half early in the day, but they were stopped by communist activists after 7 a.m. (0120 GMT).

By noon, police had made two arrests after two shopkeepers were manhandled and an activist tried to set fire to a bus, but said no other serious incidents had been reported.

As a result of the strike, government employees in Patan, Bhaktapur and Kathmandu had to walk to work. Those who lived too far away to walk just stayed home.

Factories and schools also were closed.

The general strike was called by the Nepal Communist Party (United Marxist and Leninist) (NCP-UML), the Nepal Peasants and Workers Party (NPWP), the United Peoples Front (UPF) and the NCP (Mashal-Flaming Torch).

It was called to protest a government decision to allow India to build part of its Tanakpur dam in Nepal. Strikers also wanted to register their resentment over lengthy power cuts imposed on alternate days, despite a 92 percent rise in electricity prices, an NCP-UML source said.

"The thirteen-hour load shedding on alternate days has caused great inconvenience to people of all sectors and the industries of the country," the source said.

Officials Send Condolences Over Bombay Bombings

BK1603010693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1728 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Kathmandu, March 15 (AFP)—Nepalese King Birendra in a message of condolence to Indian President Shankar Dayal Sharma expressed distress over the loss of life and property in bombings in Bombay last week, state television said Monday.

The king also extended sincere condolences and sympathies to families of the victims.

Nearly 300 people were killed in the blasts and some 1,250 others injured.

Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala sent a similar message of condolence to Indian Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao, the report added.

Number of Bhutanese Refugees Set at 100,000

BK1303161693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1544 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] Kathmandu, March 13 (AFP)—The World Food Program (WFP) will supply 8,800 tonnes of food over the next six months to ethnic Nepalese refugees from Bhutan who are now in southeastern Nepal, a U.N. official said Saturday.

The food will be supplied from April 1 to the end of September to the malnourished refugees. Additional wheat-soya blend and sugar will be supplied to 16,500 refugee children under six, the official said. The WFP food grants will be distributed daily in basic rations of 450 grams of rice, 110 grams of pulses, some vegetable oil, sugar and salt to each of the refugees, he added.

During 1992 the WFP approved three emergency food grants, delivering approximately 14,000 tonnes of grain. A Nepal Red Cross official said malnutrition had killed more than 850 refugee children in the past two years.

Meanwhile, Nepalese Home Minister Sher Bahadur Deupa told the House of Representatives Friday that the number of Bhutanese refugees in Nepal had reached 100,000, in United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)-run camps and elsewhere, a parliamentary source said Saturday. The refugees, fearing intimidation by Bhutanese authorities, arrived in Nepal looking for food and shelter.

Deupa informed the house about the grave socioeconomic, political and environmental impact in the districts of Jhapa and Morang, lying between 290 and 380 kilometres (180 and 240 miles) southeast of Kathmandu.

Deupa informed the house that the government was planning on opening one more refugee camp at Khujunabari in Jhapa district after considering its feasibility.

"The indiscriminate felling of trees by the refugees to provide firewood for 100,000 people to cook food has caused a rapid destruction of the forests," he said.

He added that the destruction of the forests must be stopped immediately to avoid an adverse environmental impact.

"With the help of the UNHCR, security command posts are being set up at all the refugee camps, taking into consideration the economic and environmental problems which could adversely affect the local people," Deupa said.

"Stringent actions would also be taken to check illegal activities like gambling, prostitution and consumption of liquors by the refugees inside the camps," he said.

"We have no intention of interfering in the internal politics of Bhutan but we are very concerned about the exodus of the unrestricted number of Bhutanese refugees into Nepal," he added.

In 1989 a policy to strengthen the nation's identity, including the wearing of national dress in public, and a reduction in the number of foreign visitors, was followed by an exodus of Bhutanese of Nepalese extraction leaving the south of the country for India and Nepal.

They claimed the Bhutanese policies were undemocratic.

Pakistan

Hekmatyar, Mojahedin Leaders Leave for Afghanistan

BK1603092393 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] Prime minister-designate of Afghanistan, Mr. Golboddin Hekmatyar, left Peshawar for Jalalabad by road this morning. He is accompanied by a number of mojahedin leaders.

Addressing tribal gathering at two different points in the Khyber Agency, he hoped that the Islamabad peace accord will bring durable and lasting peace in Afghanistan.

Hekmatyar Condemns Kashmir 'Atrocities'

BK1603030093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] The prime minister-designate of Afghanistan, Golboddin Hekmatyar, has condemned the atrocities committed by the Indian troops in occupied Kashmir. Addressing a news conference in Peshawar yesterday, he demanded that the right of self-determination be granted to the people of Kashmir on their future. Golboddin Hekmatyar urged the Islamic countries to fully support the cause of the Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina and Palestine.

Libyan Official Stops Over, Views Kashmir

BK1603063793 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0600 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] Libya has stressed the need for early implementation of the UN resolutions on Kashmir. This appeal was made by 'Umar Mustafa al-Muntasir, secretary of the Libyan People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, while chatting with newsmen in Islamabad this morning during his brief stopover on his way back home from Beijing. The Libyan official said both Pakistan and India are bound to implement the UN resolutions on Kashmir and now it is time to implement those resolutions to resolve the issue. The Libyan official was received by Jam Mashooq Ali, minister of state for production, on his arrival in Islamabad.

Sharif Notes Efforts To Resolve Kashmir Issue, NPT

BK1603051093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has said Pakistan will continue its efforts for an early solution to the Kashmir issue on the basis of the right of self-determination for the Kashmiri people. Speaking to American intellectuals who called on him in Islamabad yesterday evening, he said Kashmir is a basic issue which needs to be resolved and noted he had raised this issue with Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao during their

last five meetings at several international gatherings. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif apprised the American experts and intellectuals of Pakistan's stand on nuclear nonproliferation and referred to his five-nation proposal on the issue. He said Pakistan is a supporter of nuclear nonproliferation and that it wants good relations with the United States.

The American experts and intellectuals congratulated the prime minister on his success in reaching the Afghan peace accord.

Army Chief Returns After PRC Visit

BK1603040493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] Chinese Premier Li Peng said the traditional friendship between Pakistan and China as well as their people and armed forces has stood every test of time. During his chat with Army Chief General Abdul Waheed in Beijing, the premier also expressed the hope that the Pakistani Army chief's visit will enhance existing bilateral ties, particularly in the exchange of delegations between the armed forces of the two countries. The Chinese premier thanked Pakistan for opposing the resolution moved by certain Western countries against China at the recent UN Commission on Human Rights in Geneva.

Gen. Abdul Waheed also met General Liu Huaqing, Vice Chairman of the Chinese Central Military Commission, and exchanged views with him on matters of bilateral interest.

The Army chief returned home yesterday evening after his goodwill visit to China.

Indian Claims Over Bombings Termed Irresponsible

BK1403132093 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 14 Mar 93 p 7

[Editorial: "Dangerous and Irresponsible"]

[Text] As the death toll continues to rise after the Friday [12 March] afternoon serial bombing of Bombay, accusations are already flying in a premature bid to fix blame on Pakistan, albeit obliquely. Within hours of the bombings, Indian Home Minister S.B. Chavan irresponsibly claimed that the blasts were the results of an "international conspiracy". That statement was immediately read as an indirect reference to Pakistan made at a time when investigators had barely arrived in Bombay much less started examining the debris for evidence. Until Friday's bombings, bombings had ravaged the city in January, in which over 700 people, predominantly Muslims, had been killed. Chavan's statement could well have sparked an other wave of commual violence and terror if the rumour had spread that Pakistan was responsible for the bombings. Hindus could have started killing Muslims in another round of brutality born of fear and desire for revenge. Luckily, that did not happen.

But Indian authorities are still making potentially dangerous claims. On Saturday, Bombay police said the bombings were carried out by a "well-financed foreign extr[illegible]ist group" and pointed to a "West Asian" connection without elaborating, in what could be another oblique reference to Pakistan. The ECONOMIC TIMES newspaper in India went a step further and claimed that the bombs were made of plastic explosives generally used by military units. "No domestic terrorist group has the capability of manufacturing such sophisticated devices" adding that this made "the needle of suspicion point towards the Pakistan intelligence outfit, the ISI" [Inter-Services Intelligence]. It is still too early to even begin to identify the type of explosives used, let alone who used them. In the World Trade Centre bombing earlier this month in New York City, some of the world's best investigators and specialists took several days to analyse the data and collate evidence before making a statement.

In India, such statements are being made with authority and conviction that make them dangerously believable. Even if the ECONOMIC TIMES managed to dramatically discover that plastic explosives were used, military units are not the only ones to use it. Large quantities of explosives like the Czech-manufactured Semtex were sold in large quantities during the Cold War period to anyone who wanted it. And to claim that no domestic group has the capability to carry out such an attack is sadly underestimating the capabilities of groups within India who are opposed to the government, including the Sikhs who assassinated Indira Gandhi, the Maoist guerillas active in southern and central India, tribal militants in the northeast and the Kashmiri freedom fighters. Additionally, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam have carried out a number of attacks in India, in particular the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi. Even if one can rule out most of the domestic groups, others cannot be discounted. There are plenty who have motive and the capability if not to carry out the attacks, then to pay for a Middle Eastern or European outfit to do it.

The Indian authorities, ministers and press should not add fuel to an already tense situation within India between Muslims and Hindus by accusing Pakistan of the attacks. Premature and unsubstantiated allegations can only further sour relations between the two neighbours and further exacerbate the communal tension within India.

Purpose of Solarz' Private Visit Examined

BK1403132793 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 14 Mar 93 p 6

[Editorial: "What Is Mr Solarz Up To?"]

[Text] Former US Congressman Mr Stephen Ssolarz has reportedly arrived in Islamabad on some unknown, undisclosed mission. Has he been invited officially to this country or he has come on his own as a tourist, no

one seems to know. Knowing the track record of Mr Solarz in the past when he was a powerful Congressman it seems highly unlikely that the Foreign Office would have invited him. After all, of what use can he be to Pakistan now when he is no longer a Congressman when as Congressman he did all that was in his power to harm the interests of this country? And he has no love lost for this country to come as a tourist.

Both Pressler and Solarz are die-hard anti-Pakistan. Mr Pressler was associated with a notorious law named after him under which Pakistan has been denied all economic and military assistance by the United States since 1990. And Solarz has not only been active in upholding the discriminatory Pressler law against this country he even went a step and two further. He has long been demanding to stop all aid and assistance and military cooperation with this country.

Ambassador Abida Hussain says that the ex-congressman's visit to Islamabad is totally non-political. This does not seem convincing because if she knows that the visit is non-political then she should also disclose the exact purpose of the visit. News reports say that immediately after his arrival he left his hotel room for a meeting with some unnamed Kashmiri leaders in the capital. The reports, if true must sound alarm bells in Islamabad. At a time when the uprising in Kashmir refuses to subside and the international public opinion is increasingly taking note of the massive human rights violations in the Valley, Mr Solarz fishing in these troubled waters can have dangerous implications.

Mr Solarz is known even in the United States for his dogged arguments both in his writings and in hearings before Congressional Committees asking Washington not to sell military equipment to Pakistan. He believes that any military or non-military cooperation with Pakistan will terribly displease India for which country he is working as a lobbyist. Irrespective of the principles and circumstances involved, he has been giving a certificate of innocence to India and accusing Pakistan of mischief. About him it has rightly been commented that he will do everything to see that Pakistan is punished for the mischief of others.

Pakistanis were glad when Solarz lost congressional elections last year. Out of the Congress he is certainly far less harmful and dangerous for the vital interests of this country than when he was a Senator. Yet dangerous he is because of the influence and clout he still may have with some other congressmen. He must be watched.

Mr Solarz was said to be extra-active at the time of recently held Kashmir conference in Washington. The conference, according to reports, sought to promote the idea of an independent Kashmir. Solarz reported meetings with supporters of independent Kashmir soon after his arrival here seen in the context of Washington conference could have sinister motives.

The officials in Islamabad must impress upon Mr Solarz that he is not welcome, and should be kept under surveillance.

Cases of Nationals Held in Saudi Arabia Being Probed

BK1403134593 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 14 Mar 93 p 12

[Text] Islamabad, March 13—Pakistan government is busy investigating particulars of 111 Pakistanis and Afghan nationals who were recently arrested in Saudi Arabia on the charge of drugs trafficking. THE PAKISTAN TIMES learnt through official sources on Saturday that so far 30 cases of the total of 111 could be verified by the investigating agencies and bilateral correspondence is underway to seek more details about the remaining 81 accused. The sources said that the arrested accused in Saudi Arabia had either flown from Karachi or Islamabad international airports.

Of the total 111 arrested drug carriers, 88 hailed from the Frontier province and Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), while two belonged to the Punjab province and 21 Afghan nationals, residing in various parts of Pakistan as refugees.

Sources further said that 71 accused in the custody of Saudi authorities travelled from Pakistan on fake Pakistani passports, and 21 Afghans too travelled from Pakistan on fake Pakistani passports. Only 19 accused had travelled on genuine Pakistan Passports, the sources said. Except one, who was arrested in possession of raw opium, remaining 110 were possessing high-grade heroin powder. Majority of the arrested accused carried 300 grams to 1.6 kg in capsules and swallowed. Sources went on to say that the investigating agencies had discovered in this connection 23 big sources of supply to these arrested accused and these sources of supply are based in Momand and Bajore agencies.

Following the crucial situation, the government of Pakistan has directed all the concerned agencies to adopt strict policy while clearing the passengers intending to travel to Saudi Arabia.

Sri Lanka

LTTE Suffers 'Heavy Casualties' in Trincomalee

BK1603115693 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in English 1045 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] Security forces attacked a group of LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists at Morawewa in the Trincomalee District inflicting heavy casualties on them. The Joint Operations Command told LANKAPUVATH that troops who were on a route clearing patrol observed a group of terrorists moving in the jungle and engaged them with small arms and mortar fire. Terrorists retaliated with small arms fire and withdrew. Troops

recovered two T-56 magazine, one cyanide capsule, four jungle huts, and a small quantity of dry rations. LTTE cadres have suffered heavy casualties. There were no casualties among the security forces.

LTTE Said Aware of Waning International Support

BK1503162493 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 4 Mar 93 p 6

[Editorial: "The Message From Jaffna"]

[Text] LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] leader Velupillai Prabhakaran who is making himself much less scarce than before, has granted BBC a wide-ranging interview in a hideout somewhere in the northeast. This closely followed his recent controversial meeting with Anglican Bishop Kenneth Fernando. Significantly, these public relations exercises previously delegated to the second rung of the Tiger leadership are now being undertaken by Prabhakaran himself.

The reason for this new behavioural pattern of the previously reclusive LTTE leader will undoubtedly be attributed by many to the Tigers feeling the heat of the current military offensive. The message from Jaffna is loud and clear. Prahhakaran is trying to project an impression of being reasonable, of being willing to talk peace from a position other than outright separation. He wants the world, the country and, perhaps, most of all the people of Jaffna, to feel that he is not an unrepentant warmonger, uncaringly heaping suffering on those whom he claims to represent.

But the perceptive will understand that he is not saying anything new in indicating a willingness to compromise the separate state demand of the past for a federal solution. He is standing hard on the question of the merger of the northern and eastern provinces, an area he continues to describe as the Tamil "homeland" regardless of the very large number of Sinhalese and Muslims who live in the east. A referendum in the eastern province will conclusively settle the question of whether the majority there want the merger or not. But Prabhakaran, unfortunately, does not appear to favour such a democratic measure.

In his reply to the BBC correspondent's question on the prevailing political and military situation, the Tiger leader has painted a gloomy picture. He claimed that no effort was being made to resolve the problem and made very clear that he did not share the government's optimism that something positive will come out of the efforts of the Parliamentary Select Committee [PSC] "because the main Sinhala parties in the PSC are not prepared to accept the basic demand of the Tamil people." Squarely placing the onus of the peace search on the government side, he has moved very little himself to help in this endeavour beyond expressing a wish for peace "from the bottom of my heart".

He has voiced the LTTE's belief that the army is now preparing to launch big attacks and was modernising its weapons. While expressing confidence that his forces could withstand the military pressure, he accused the western nations of indirectly helping this "war of ethnic destruction". Prabhakaran's view, as stated in the interview with BBC, was that Colombo was continuing the war with the help of western loans and war could not go on if the west stops giving money and arms. He is obviously unhappy about the good relations between the government and the western nations.

Time was when the Tigers themselves had many friends in the west. Even today, the LTTE either extort or otherwise obtain substantial resources from Tamils living in Western Europe and North America. They have offices in many of these countries and Lawrence Thilakar in Paris is often quoted by western news agencies and other media on matters of concern to the Tigers. It is true that there was a British embargo on arms and aid to Sri Lanka which was lifted soon after the Tigers massacred a large number of Muslims in the East. That embargo had nothing to do with either war or peace. It related to the Gladstone affaire.

What has emerged from the BBC interview is that the LTTE right now knows that support for its cause in both India and in the west is waning and this is of concern to the Tiger leadership. There appears to be no compromise possible from the LTTE side on the question of the northeast merger which remains the main sticking point to the federal solution that the LTTE now publicly says it favours. There is also a clear impression that Prabhakaran is confident of his ability to withstand greater military pressure.

But what of the ordinary people of Jaffna, particularly, on whom any escalation of the conflict must have an inevitable effect? The LTTE leader cannot be unconscious of that fact, hence his recent efforts to appear reasonable. This means that public opinion in the war-torn areas is at least now penetrating the LTTE armour and that is all to the good. Hopefully, the people will keep up that pressure on the LTTE hierarchy, enabling a just and durable solution as quickly as possible.